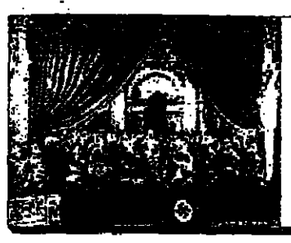


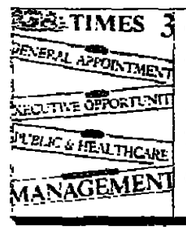
Fear of league tables

Janet Daley asks how we would like our statistics: raw or cooked. **Page 20**



Cultural twilight

Music in the Third Reich
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Top appointments

Eighteen pages featuring the best senior job opportunities. **Section Three**

20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,120 THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24 1994

Strategy on Euro-vote agreed over supper at No 10

Cabinet pact to resign if rebels win

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KENNETH Clarke dramatically stepped up the war on the Conservative Euro-rebels last night by vowing that all members of the Cabinet would go down with John Major if he loses the European finance vote on Monday.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was acting to quash the growing claims of Euro-sceptics that the debate on the European Finance Bill is not an issue of confidence and that Mr Major would be prevented by his Cabinet colleagues from seeking a dissolution of Parliament if he was defeated, with one of them taking his place.

Mr Clarke, a leading candidate to be the next Tory leader, said at Westminster last night that no Cabinet member could honourably take such a course because the entire Cabinet had agreed to make the issue a confidence matter. He believed the Government would win but made plain that defeat would mean Mr Major went to the Palace.

Mr Clarke's intervention came as sceptics were handed ammunition for their fight: the Treasury admitted that its estimates of payments to Brussels this year were £732 million too low, and Patrick Nicholls, a Conservative Party vice-chairman, made an outspoken attack on France and Germany that may have put his job in doubt.

Details also emerged of how the Cabinet took its decision to put the Government's survival on the line in Monday's vote. Its six most senior members — Mr Major, Mr Clarke, Douglas Hurd, Michael Howard, Michael Heseltine and Tony Newton — agreed at an informal supper at Downing Street on the Sunday before the Queen's Speech that it should be treated as a confidence issue. They decided they needed to secure the agreement of every other member of the Cabinet before putting the high-risk plan into action. Mr Hurd had first suggested at the Cabinet meeting the previous Thursday that it should be seen as a confidence matter.



Clarke: entire Cabinet agreed on issue

Mr Major spoke to every member and all were reported to have backed the line. There was no request for a full meeting of the Cabinet. An informed Cabinet source said last night: "It was plain and obvious commonsense to everyone."

Whitehall sources denied that the Sunday gathering was an "inner cabinet." It was said that Mr Major regularly held such meetings with different groups of Cabinet ministers.

Mr Clarke was clearly trying to remove any doubt on the part of MPs planning to rebel about the high stakes involved. The Government is expected to win but at least half a dozen die-hards were still threatening last night to vote against the Bill and a handful of others to abstain.

On another day of internal party strife, ministers were intensifying the pressure on the hardcore rebels who claim they will withhold their support from the Government even though their punishment will be the loss of the party whip. Threats were issued that such MPs would have little chance of returning to Parliament after the next election. Their constituency associations would not be able to readopt them and it was even said that if constituency parties decided to stick by "renegade" MPs they would be wound up and new ones formed.

Mr Clarke said that if any Euro-sceptics were suggesting that another member of the Cabinet could take over, the idea should not be given any credibility. He also dismissed the idea that the Queen might refuse Mr Major a dissolution.

Earlier Mr Clarke had taken the unusual step of releasing figures on Britain's contribution to Europe which showed a big revision of the estimate of the total for the year ending next April. The figures would normally have been given in the Budget next week but the Chancellor wanted them out before Monday's vote.

Original forecasts put the figure at about £1.7 billion but the new estimate puts them closer to £2.44 billion. Although Mr Clarke's estimate of the cost of the Edinburgh deal — an extra £75 million next year rising to £250 million by the end of the century — was unchanged, sceptics were gleeful at further evidence of what they call the bottomless pit of the EU.

Reasons put forward for the upward estimate was the higher growth rate in Britain compared with other EU states and the late payment of money for the Common Agricultural Policy, which should have been made at the end of the last financial year in March but was held over until April.

The rebels went straight on the attack. Edward Leigh, a former minister, said: "It justifies everything that we have been saying. We are not talking about small amounts of money, we are talking about a serious issue of principle here. I would have thought it does put a new complexion on things."

Richard Shepherd said: "They care more about payments to Brussels, even when they get the figures wrong, than they do about VAT bills for our old people."

Peter Riddell, page 11
Leading article, page 21

Major's poll rating falls again

BY PETER RIDDELL

THE public standing of the Tories and of John Major has fallen again in the polls as the Government has become embroiled in further arguments about Europe and allegations about sleaze.

The latest MORI poll for The Times, undertaken last weekend, shows that the modest recovery in the ratings of the Government and the Prime Minister during the early autumn has now been reversed.

The Government's approval rating, measuring those satisfied less dissatisfied with its performance, improved from minus 73 points to minus 65 points between August and the end of October. But it has now dropped to minus 70 points. Similarly, Mr Major's rating for the way he is doing his job as Prime Minister improved between August and October from minus 59 points to minus 39 points. But it has now widened again to minus 47 points.

This confirms the pattern of the past 18 months whereby each pick-up in the ratings of Mr Major and the Government has proved to be short-

Continued on page 2, col 6



SIMON WALKER

Something to smile about: Gillian Shephard and Edwina Curry won Parliamentarian of the Year awards yesterday

Victory for silence, page 12

Doctor is suspended for faking pregnancy reports

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A CONSULTANT obstetrician was suspended from duty yesterday after an inquiry concluded that he had faked two scientific papers on pregnancy problems.

Malcolm Pearce, a consultant at St George's Hospital, London, was suspended after an internal inquiry found there was "no evidence to support the findings" of two papers published in the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Last night Mr Pearce said he would fight the decision and questioned the moves that led to the inquiry. "It wasn't a straight complaint about my scientific credibility, but an attempt to get rid of me," he said.

The inquiry was set up last month by Professor Sir William Asscher, principal of St George's Medical School, after allegations that a case report in the journal of an operation to save an embryo growing outside the womb had not taken place as described. The case report claimed that surgeons successfully transferred the embryo from the fallopian tube to the womb and the woman, a 29-year-old African, later gave birth to a live baby.

The operation was the first successful transfer of an ectopic pregnancy in Britain and created wide interest in medical circles and among the public. The report in the journal, published last August, was signed by Mr Pearce, Professor Geoffrey Chamberlain, head of the academic department of obstetrics at St George's Medical School, and Isaac Manyonda, a junior doctor. Professor Chamberlain is also president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and editor of the journal. Mr Pearce is a deputy editor. The inquiry also found

Continued on page 2, col 5

US smuggles Soviet uranium to safety

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration disclosed yesterday how more than half-a-ton of ill-protected weapons-grade uranium was spirited out of Kazakhstan, the former Soviet republic.

The material could have made two to three dozen nuclear bombs, and after it reached Tennessee's Oak Ridge nuclear complex yesterday the White House said the operation an "historic step toward meeting the proliferation challenges of the post-Cold War era".

William Perry, the Defence Secretary, said "Project Sapphire" had "put this bomb-grade nuclear material forever out of the reach of potential black-marketeers, terrorists or new nuclear regimes". He rejected Russian claims yesterday that the material was not weapons-grade.

The operation, mounted by the State, Defence and Energy Departments, began early this year when Kazakhstan offered to sell America 1,323lbs of highly-enriched uranium that it had inherited from the former Soviet Union but was unable to store safely or securely.

It is believed the material was stored in a warehouse at the old Ust-Kamenogorsk nuclear fuel plant in the northeastern city of Ulba near the Russian and Chinese borders.

The Administration spent months surmounting legal and diplomatic obstacles to the removal of the material. On October 7, President Clinton secretly ordered 31 American nuclear experts and their equipment to Kazakhstan. They set up a "factory" and raced to prepare the material for transportation before winter weather made conditions too unsafe.

Last weekend three C-5 military transport planes flew the material in 1,400 canisters to the Dover Air Force base in Delaware, refuelling in the air. From Dover the cargo was transported by road to Oak Ridge. Next year it will be "blended down" for use in commercial nuclear reactors.

The Administration refused to divulge how many millions of dollars it paid Kazakhstan for the material, but Mr Perry said America would help pay for the destruction of nuclear weapons facilities, help retrain the workforce and clean up the environment after years of Soviet atomic arms testing.

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Post workers call strikes

Post office workers are to stage one-day strikes in the run-up to Christmas in protest at closures caused by "back door privatisation".

However Christmas deliveries will not be hit by the walkouts at main post offices in 20 regions, the Union of Communication Workers said. The union will decide the strike days later this week.

The Post Office said industrial action would be "pointless and misguided" and complained that the union had no mandate for a strike because it was backed by only 20 out of 70 areas.

Alan Johnson, the union's general secretary, said the action was intended to "stop the rot" and halt closures.

Workers at the Royal Mint are to stage a 24-hour strike next month in protest at a performance-related pay scheme.

Shares fall amid US rate rise fears

Shares in London fell sharply yesterday in response to the overnight slide on Wall Street caused by fears of further interest rate rises in America.

By yesterday's close the FT-SE 100 Index had fallen 51.2 points to close at 3027.5, taking the fall so far this week to more than 100 points

Page 25

Death crash

A wealthy banker described at an inquest yesterday how he watched as his wife and two young children died after their Range veered across a dual-carriageway into the path of a lorry

Page 3

Serbs poised to take Bihac as Nato hits missile sites

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT AND JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

THE mayor of Bihac, the United Nations "safe area" under siege by Serb forces in northwest Bosnia, made a dramatic telephone call last night to warn that Serb soldiers were advancing on the centre of the town.

Last night a spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (Unprofor) in Zagreb said Serb infantry had breached the UN safe area but could not confirm they were inside the town. The Bosnian Army 5th Corps defending the town against overwhelming Serb firepower, were holding on to their one remaining defensive position on Debeljaca hill, two miles from Bihac town centre.

Hamdiya Kabiljagic, the Bihac mayor, declared in a satellite phone call: "The city is dying and will not hold out for long. Anything can happen between now and tomorrow because of the lack of weapons."

He said attacking troops were coming from Krajina, the Serb-held area across the border in Croatia, and that soldiers from the Yugoslav army were also taking part.

Michael Williams, the Unprofor spokesman said: "There is very heavy shelling and there are a lot of Serb infantry in the safe area. This is clearly very serious."

He said there was no food left for the 50,000 residents in the town and the 10,000 displaced people who had sought shelter in Bihac. Warren Christopher, US Secretary of State, said US officials were consulting Nato allies on further action to prevent the fall of Bihac. The appeal for help from the Bihac mayor came after Nato jet fighters had mounted a double raid on Serb Sam-2 missile sites around the safe area, following the targeting of two Royal Navy Sea Harriers on Tuesday.

More than 20 aircraft were involved in attacking the Sam-2 site at Otoka, 15 miles northeast of the Bihac pocket, which had been involved in the attempted shooting down of the British planes. En route, two other Serb Sam-2 sites in the area locked on to the Nato aircraft. They were also bombed "in self-defence", Nato said.

The Nato planes were back again a few hours later to make a second strike at the Sam site at Otoka after damage assessment photographs showed that although the radars had been hit, the missiles were still operational.

RAF Jaguars were involved in the Nato action for the second time this week. Two British Jaguars based at Gioia del Colle carried out reconnaissance before the first strike and took photos after the raid. However, while the Nato aircraft hit the missile batteries on the outskirts of Bihac, the Serbs were closing in on the town itself, despite warnings from Nato.



Smith: offered option of further airstrikes

Yesterday Admiral Leighton Smith, commander of alliance forces southern Europe, based in Naples, said he had offered to use airstrikes to protect 1,200 Bangladeshi UN soldiers trapped by the Serb assault but made it clear that Unprofor had not taken up the offer. After yesterday's airstrikes, the Bosnian Serb Army threatened Unprofor forces with "all-out war".

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the Unprofor commander in Bosnia, was reported to be "fuming" over the latest Nato airstrikes. Unprofor commanders placed their 24,000 troops in Bosnia on full-scale alert as the Serbs threw a blockade of tanks and infantry around UN peacekeepers guarding Sarajevo arms dumps.

Russian Foreign Ministry officials on Wednesday expressed alarm at the latest Nato airstrikes, warning that excessive use of force could escalate rather than subdue the conflict.

Last night Yasushi Akashi, the UN envoy in the former Yugoslavia, said he had worked out a peace deal for Bihac with Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian President, and Milan Martic, president of the self-proclaimed Republic of Serb Krajina. He said after talks in Belgrade that he would put the proposal to Croatian, Bosnian Muslim and Serb leaders.

Military options, page 16

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Eyes have it in Chamber that never sleeps

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

No MP, it is well known, ever sleeps in the Chamber. No Member, except Dennis Skinner, would ever accuse another of such a crime. It would be an affront to the dignity of Parliament for reporters to imply it: we have been sent to the Tower for less. MPs rest their eyes, lower their gaze, or lie back in their seats with both eyes shut to concentrate ... but they never, ever sleep.

So let us be clear that Sir Peter Emery (C, Honiton) was not asleep yesterday. Industry Questions were in full swing. The exchanges — about subsidies to shipyards — were of a complex nature and needed careful thought. Sir Peter was thinking very carefully indeed. Head back, eyes screwed up with concentration, this distinguished buffer was occupying the seat on the front bench below the gangway where Sir Edward Heath when he is there, likes to sit.

Frankly, Sir Peter was not alone in reverie. Your sketch-writer, returned from a generous lunch given by Highland Park Whisky and The Spectator to celebrate their annual Parliamentarian of the Year award, was himself concentrating hard on shipbuilding subsidy. Up in the Gallery, I shut my eyes to assist thought.

I was disturbed by a commotion. Skinner was shouting: "Wake up!" Sir Edward had arrived and was standing by his usual seat, occupied by Sir Peter, who was concentrating. There were spare seats a little further along the bench, but they were not where Sir Edward likes to sit. He was determined to have his own, special place, yet too much of a gent to make a fuss. So he simply stood there.

And still Sir Peter concentrated. People began to laugh. Skinner's taunts continued. Nicholas Winterton (C, Macclesfield) leant across towards Emery to distract him from his shipyard idyll. Laughter grew. Sir Edward stood.

Sir Peter opened his eyes. He looked for a moment as though he was not quite sure where he was. Then it sank in. Honiton moved over. Old Bexley & Sidcup moved in. Sir Edward's impassive features, having betrayed no irritation while he was being disobliged, now betrayed no gratitude that he had been obliged. The proprieties had been restored, that was all. A debate on the Economy followed: Gordon Brown vs Kenneth Clarke. Mr Brown made a fluent, relaxed speech in which he revealed the two main sources of income waiting to be garnered by a Labour government: loopholes and windfalls.

The prospect for a Labour Chancellor was a majestic progress through the fiscal vineyard, gathering windfalls, closing loopholes, and returning — arms full of revenues. Brown bewailed the failures of the Tories to bring home this harvest.

Brown was like Eeyore, said the Chancellor. The harvest was already generous, yet Eeyore failed to join the thanksgiving. Doing a passable imitation of Tigger, Clarke said: "I don't think I can imagine a better economic background". All this was happening "now! While we're talking! Investment is rising!"

Clarke then quoted an arcane passage from a speech he said had been written for Brown "by Mr Balls" (Brown's assistant is a Mr Balls). Balls's language was gobbledegook, said our plain-speaking Chancellor. Why couldn't Labour "give — in English — at least one straight question to some of the answers we've given?"

Oops. Tigger looked momentarily crestfallen. "It was the mention of Mr Balls," he spluttered apologetically, "I hope it's not contagious."

First troops pull out after IRA ceasefire

The Army made its first reduction in troop levels in Northern Ireland since the IRA ceasefire when 150 soldiers were flown back to their base in Herford, Germany, yesterday after their tour of duty was cut short.

The men from 201 Signal Squadron, who had been guarding the Maze Prison, Co Antrim, will return to their duties with the Nato Rapid Reaction Force in Germany. Other soldiers based in Belfast will assume their duties.

Truncheon on way out

The traditional police truncheon headed for the history books yesterday after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, gave approval for police to be equipped with American-style side-handled rigid batons. Chief Constables in England, Wales and Scotland were given permission to use the new batons, which are 24in to 26in long, after trials produced little criticism from either the police or public.

Passports made easy

The Government is planning to allow travel agents, banks and Post Offices to issue application forms and collect fees for full ten-year passports. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, announced last night. They would take over most of the initial work for about 3.6 million documents a year but the Passport Agency would make final checks before issuing a passport. The proposals could be in force by next year.

Glasgow's design title

Glasgow has won the Arts Council's title of City of Architecture and Design 1999 with its proposed £3 billion spending programme for 150 projects. The city's pledges for 1999 include: £7 million investment in design, involving 10,000 young people and schoolchildren, a six-year programme to create 400 jobs in design companies, £15 million environmental improvements in the city centre, and two new art galleries.

Crime figures 'mislead'

A study has found that high crime areas in England do not necessarily contain more victims than other areas but have a number of households that are burgled or attacked frequently. Risk factors include having lived in a property for only a few years, and a professional job, says Alan Trickett, lecturer in quantitative criminology at the University of Manchester, in the Economic and Social Research Council's annual report.

Toy museum reprieved

A former aircraft engineer is set to reopen his museum of childhood after failing to sell most of his collection of 2,000 toys at Sotheby's in London yesterday. Bob Brown's collection, from the museum at Beaumaris, Gwynedd, was withdrawn after failing to reach its reserve price of £220,000. But 75 of the most valuable items were sold to raise several thousand pounds towards halving the museum's overdraft.

Lady Cobham separation



Lady Cobham, right, whose relationship with Patrick Mellor, the former Heritage Secretary, was revealed earlier this month by a Sunday newspaper, is to separate from her husband of 20 years, Viscount Cobham. Her lawyers said she believed that matters would be dealt with in a civilised manner. Mr Mellor has already announced the end of his marriage to his wife Judith.

Times wins awards

***The Times* has won two press awards. David Driver, head of design, won the annual Newspaper Design Awards prize for his work on the paper's D-Day supplement in June. The judges praised Mr Driver's elegant handling of photographs, graphics and text. Norman Hammond, the archaeology correspondent, was the first winner of a new category for press coverage in the biennial British Archaeology Awards.**

Major's rating falls again

Continued from page 1

lived. After the big drop in their standing two years ago, they have bounced along the bottom, with merely short-term blips.

The Tories are now on 24 per cent, just above their all-time low, compared with 25 per cent at the end of October. These findings are gloomy news for the Tories in their attempt to retain Dudley West in the by-election on December 15. Labour support has also dropped slighly over the past month, by two points from its presious record high to 55 per cent. But this slight decline is unlikely to worry Tony Blair since Labour strategists were concerned that their party's ratings were unrealistically high and a correction was bound to occur at some stage. Mr Blair has been out of the limelight in the past couple of weeks compared with the late summer and his own approval rating has slipped slightly, from plus 27 points to plus 19 points.

Support for the Liberal Democrats has risen by three points since the end of October to 17 per cent.

MORI interviewed 1833 adults at 143 constituency sampling points between February 17 and 21. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent), are undecided (6 per cent) or who refused to say (2 per cent).

Leaders swift to disown comments of vice-chairman

Top Tory shocks party with attack on EU partners

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN EXTRAORDINARY attack on "German warmongers and French collaborators" was launched yesterday by a senior Conservative MP less than a week before the vote on the Brussels budget.

Patrick Nicholls, a vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, said he wished that Britain was not a member of the European Union and accused the "lesser countries" of the Union of insulting Britain with their begging bowls.

John Major and Conservative Central Office swiftly distanced themselves from Mr Nicholls's views. Downing Street officials said that they did not sound like the kind of sentiments the Prime Minister would express about his European partners. Central Office said the choice of words used was a matter for Mr Nicholls, not them.

The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, told *Channel 4 News*: "Today we are friends with the French and Germans across the continent and we don't wish to go back to the broad-brush old-fashioned prejudices of the kind which used to do Europe so much harm."

Mr Nicholls, MP for Teignbridge, voiced his anti-European views in a regional paper, *The Western Morning News*. He was unavailable for comment last night: he is in a hospital in his constituency, receiving traction for a back problem.

Describing himself as having a pedigree more English than anyone, Mr Nicholls said in the article: "I have no great liking for a Continent dominated by two countries, the unique contribution of one of which has been to plunge Europe into two world wars in living memory, and another which proved itself incapable of winning any war unless it is fought by the French Foreign Legion." France, he said, "had the nerve to represent itself as a nation of resistance fighters in World War II when, in fact, it was a nation of collaborators".

He concluded: "I wish I was not in the European Community. It is far from the merely economic community we were led to expect — and if I thought it was feasible, I would be off tomorrow."

Mr Nicholls, 46, was forced to resign as a junior environment minister four years ago after being charged with drink-driving while attending the Tory conference in Bournemouth. He had held the post for only three months after spending six years as a parliamentary aide to a number of junior and middle-ranking ministers.



Allason: comments "quite correct" historically



Nicholls: accused of old-fashioned prejudices

His appointment as one of five Tory vice-chairman after the general election was seen as a sign that his ministerial career might be rehabilitated, but his hopes of advancement were diminished last night by the rapidity with which Tory chief disowned his comments.

Despite the vehemence of his assault on the French and German national characters, Mr Nicholls said he would be supporting the Government in Monday's vote on increasing Britain's EU contributions.

This was because the Government was intent on resisting the embrace of "some bastardised, federalised European destiny, actively and fawningly to France and Germany, as the lesser countries insult us to the tune of their begging bowls — the policy advocated by the Lab- our and Liberal Democrat parties."

Rupert Allason, the espionage writer who is Tory MP for Torbay, said Mr Nicholls's comments were "quite correct" on a historical basis. "At the end of World War Two 30,000 French collaborators were executed, and the Germans did start two world wars. Whether it is appropriate to raise them in 1994 is an entirely different matter."

Robin Cook, shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "This must be a major embarrassment for John Major. Instead of helping with campaigning, Patrick Nicholls has shown the divisions within the Tory party go right to the top." Charles Kennedy, Liberal Democrat spokesman on Europe, said Mr Nicholls's position was untenable.

Cabinet pact, page 1
Leading article, page 21

Consultant suspended

Continued from page 1

that a second report in the journal by Mr Pearce — a study of 190 women with polycystic ovary disease — had been faked. St George's said that Professor Asscher had written to Professor Chamberlain as editor of the journal to ask that the inquiry's finding be communicated to the readership. It said no further details could be provided "because of the prospect of disciplinary action".

The position of Professor Chamberlain, who was not mentioned in the statement issued by St George's, was unclear last night. Mr Pearce said that Professor Chamberlain's name was on the paper "purely as a courtesy, as head of department". He had included Mr Manyonda's name because "conversations with him led to the change in technique that resulted in the successful pregnancy," he said.

Mr Pearce said he had been advised not to comment further on the inquiry. "I've got to get through this and discover whoever did it and for whatever reason. There are ways of complaining about doctors and their research and those ways weren't followed in this case.

"It wasn't a straight complaint about my scientific credibility, but an attempt to get rid of me and the 'prof' who has been my supporter for 20 years."

CORRECTION

In the Business and the Arts special report (November 21) the nomination in support of the National Youth Orchestra should have included Lexus, the car manufacturer.



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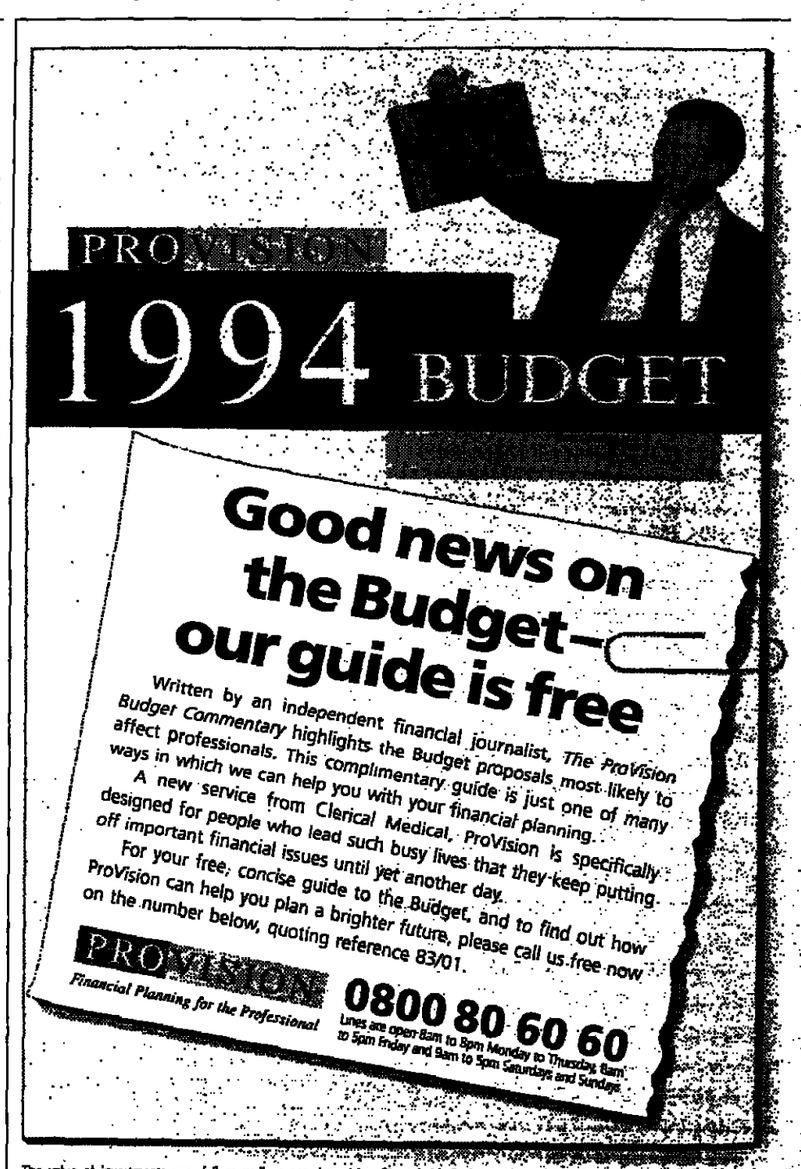
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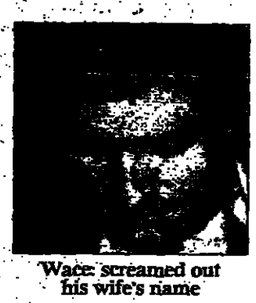
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Banker tells how he saw family die in crash with lorry

By Andrew Pierce and Anjana Ahuja



Wace screamed out his wife's name

A WEALTHY banker described yesterday how he watched as his wife and two young children died after their car veered across a dual-carriageway into the path of a lorry.

Ian Wace, 31, was driving ahead in his Mercedes when his wife Joanne lost control of their Range Rover after apparently turning round to comfort her 11-month-old daughter. Mr Wace told an inquest at Andover that he repeatedly screamed his wife's name as the car hit a kerb and spun "like a barrel, four or five times" into the lorry. "I realised something was going on because I saw the car veer towards the hard shoulder. I said 'Joanne', then shouted 'Joanne', then screamed 'Joanne'.

"The wheels hit a kerb stone. As the Range Rover veered off the edge of the road I saw gravel flying out of the back and then it hit the kerb. I momentarily lost sight of the car and then I saw it travelling across the carriageway at a far steeper angle. Before it hit the central reservation it was on two wheels. The car went over the central reservation as if it was not even there and then it became airborne."

Mrs Wace, 34, her four-year-old son Guy and daughter Alicia, who were crushed in the impact, might have survived if the crash barriers on the A303 near Andover had been designed differently, the inquest was told. But once the crash sequence had begun "not even racing driver Nigel Mansell could have prevented it".

Mr Wace tried to rescue his family from the wreckage and held his dying children in his arms at the roadside. His wife died a few hours later in hospital.

Graham Short, the Mid-Hants coroner, recorded verdicts of accidental death and said: "The most probable explanation is that of a temporary lapse of concentration, the causes of which are endless. I can't believe Mrs Wace could have dozed off. As a father I have a feeling that Mrs Wace may have been distracted by her children in the back of her car. Alicia was only 11 months old. It would only be natural for a mother to turn round to look at her if the baby cried. It must be the ultimate nightmare and tragedy of any father and husband to lose his family in this way."

Police Constable David Jenkins of the accident investigation unit at Winchester Police said that the dual-carriageway crash barriers were not effective when hit by Range Rovers because their centre of gravity was much higher than on other cars. "The effect is that Range Rovers roll over the top of crash barriers." Rover and the Highways Authority last night denied there was any fault in their specifications.

Conditions had been perfect for driving on the day of the crash, September 5, as the family returned to their home in Putney, west London, after visiting relatives in Plymouth. Only 20 miles before the crash they stopped at a service station and had a meal together. The children were sitting in child seats fitted in the rear of the car. They were in separate vehicles because Mr Wace had joined them in Plymouth from a business trip in Italy. He said that when they travelled in convoy he always kept an eye on his wife in the rear-view mirror. "There was no reason for it, I just did it subconsciously."

Jonathan Barber, the driver of the lorry, who lives in Bracknell, Berkshire, said: "I saw it do a 90 degree turn on itself and then come through the crash barrier and barrel-roll. It came more or less straight towards me and there was nowhere else for me to go except down a 30ft bank."

Another witness, Aileen Cockshot, who was travelling behind the Range Rover, said: "The driver was desperately trying to correct the Range Rover. I saw the car spin into the path of an oncoming lorry. I prayed a miracle could happen and the lorry would avoid the car. But it was inevitable it would hit it."

The inquest was told that a police examination of the Range Rover had found no defects. A spokesman for Rover said: "This is a terrible tragedy but there is nothing wrong with the design of the Range Rover. It has been around for 24 years. Much larger and heavier vehicles use the highways."



Range Rover "went through the central crash barriers as though they weren't even there"



Lisa Winder, whose name lives on among children in an African village

British aid worker dies from malaria after mercy mission

A BRITISH aid worker died of malaria after returning from a mission to deliver clothes and toiletries to a Gambian village.

Lisa Winder, 25, took aid three times to the Gambian community of Nemu Kunku, which has a population of 800. When she returned from her last visit she became ill with flu-like symptoms. She was taken to the North Staffordshire Hospital in Stoke-on-Trent but died three weeks later from cerebral malaria. Miss Winder, a shop assistant, had flown to the Gambia for a fortnight with her boyfriend, her brother and a friend. They all obtained anti-malaria tablets but Miss Winder did not take them.

Her parents said that the dangers of malaria should be highlighted to people travelling to Third World countries. Pauline Winder, a legal secretary, said: "People need to be more aware that malaria can kill. I hope people can learn from this."

Before an earlier visit, Miss Winder did take anti-malaria tablets. She travelled alone and stayed for two weeks with the village school headmistress. She paid a boy's school fees and bought a bicycle for a villager who had to walk miles to work. Many villagers named their children after her for providing the school with pens and writing paper.

"She loved those people and they really took a shine to her," Mrs Winder said. "It is a tragedy. She just wanted to help."

Student cleared of raping girl who was 'too tired for sex'

By Lucy Berrington

A STUDENT who had sex with a college girl despite her complaints that she was too tired to make love wept yesterday after being cleared of rape. The alleged victim left the court crying after the judge ordered the jury to reach a verdict of not guilty.

"He could only go on the signs he was getting from her," Judge Addison told the jury at Winchester Crown Court.

David Warren, 19, had denied raping the 18-year-old after meeting her outside a nightclub in Southsea, Hampshire, in April. The couple went to a friend's house where Mr Warren kissed and fondled the girl while they shared a double bed. She told the jury he had intercourse with her even though she complained she was too tired.

She agreed that she did not fight off his advances and spent the rest of the night with him after they had sex. She called the police after discussing what had happened with friends the next day.

Judge Addison directed the jury to acquit Mr Warren, a student at Portsmouth Universfty, at the end of the prosecution's case. "It is up to the prosecution to prove that the victim was not consenting to sexual intercourse. It is my view that the prosecution has failed," he said.

Yesterday the judge reminded the jury that David Warren was sharing a bed with the girl and she did not tell him to get out. "She did not physically resist or make it plain that she did not want intercourse," he said.

"On her own evidence she admitted she did not resist. The first time she said she was too tired was when he tried to penetrate her. She did not try to stop him because she said she was shocked and confused and maybe had had too much to drink.

"There was some evidence that she said no, but this was at a late stage and not in the most emphatic terms."

The woman had said she undressed, put on a nightshirt and G-string and went to bed "feeling the effects of the cider I had drunk". Alcohol might have played a part, the judge told the jury, but Mr Warren could not be expected to take account of that. "If a girl is so drunk and in such a position not to say yes or no and a man takes advantage then it is rape. In this case the defendant had no reason to know how much drink had been taken," he said.

Earlier in the day the court heard that Mr Warren told police the girl had invited him to stay in the same bed.

The girl, giving evidence, had said: "I just lay there. It hurt and I started to cry, but he told me it would be all right. He put his arm round me and cuddled me. We stayed there and slept until about ten in the morning."

Friends of the alleged victim said she had hardly left her home in the seven months since the night of the incident. The friend whose house the students stayed at said: "It has completely ruined her life. She now gets very depressed."

Jennifer Warren, David's mother, said: "The pressure of the case made him quit his course at Portsmouth University and he is now unemployed."



Warren: in tears as he left court building

Mother of one-boy crime wave appeals to escape town's wrath

By Paul Wilkinson

PARENTS of the young criminal blamed for singlehandedly closing down a town centre business community have asked to be rehoused to escape threats. The mother of the 14-year-old who has 130 convictions for burglary, theft and criminal damage said: "He has made so many enemies that we need a fresh start. Some people whose homes have been burgled have threatened him."

Traders in Elland, West Yorkshire, who say that the boy is driving them out of business, are angry that he is too young to be locked up. They have written to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, asking for help.

This week the teenager, who cannot be identified, admitted another string of burglaries. Magistrates could only order him to spend a total of 24 hours at an attendance centre.

His mother, 36, said: "I know he needs to be punished but I don't think he needs locking up. It could be that this attendance centre will work, but only if they are really tough with him. He now seems to be mending his ways and has not been in trouble for the past few months."

Keiron Green, the boy's solicitor, said: "His parents have tried everything to keep him out of prison, short of chaining him to his bed."

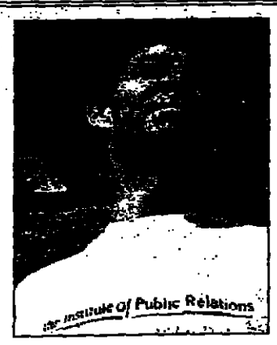
Elland's league of commerce and industry believes that his activities could threaten the viability of a new £8 million business park built on the town's outskirts with government redevelopment grants. Insurance firms have pressured town centre businesses to fit tough security shutters and other types of ugly protection. In some instances cover has been refused and shops have been forced to close.

Jackie Rourke, the league chairman, who moved her own company from Elland a year ago after five break-ins by the boy, said: "There is potential for at least 2,000 jobs, but when prospective investors visit the site they also come to have a look at the town and what they see is a town under siege."

Roger Benn, chairman of the West Yorkshire Police Federation, said yesterday: "All the local businesses in Elland have written to the Home Secretary to point out their displeasure. I am sure more moves like that will make him take the appropriate steps, obviously with our full support and the support of the Chief Constable."

The Home Office issued a statement yesterday saying that the Government was taking positive steps to combat persistent juvenile crime under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. Secure training centres would "aim to break the cycle of offending behaviour of persistant young offenders through training and education, followed by close supervision in the community", it said.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



No publicity, please

MATTHEW PARRIS ON LIES, •DAMNED LIES AND PR

IN THE

MAGAZINE

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A HOLIDAY COTTAGE IN BRITTANY

IN

WEEKEND

Parents jailed in fight over school

By A Staff Reporter

AN ELDERLY couple were yesterday jailed for 30 days after a 25-year battle over their children's education. Kenneth Sibley, 68, and his wife Joan, 71, refuse to pay council taxes because they believe the local authority denied their children a proper education.

The battle began in 1969 when Luton Council introduced comprehensive schools. Mr and Mrs Sibley were unhappy that their daughters Vanessa and Melanie and son Duncan would not be able to go to grammar school.

The girls were put in care after being kept away from school for two years. Finally a benefactor paid for them to attend a private school. The same happened a few years later with Duncan.

Yesterday Mr and Mrs Sibley appeared before Luton magistrates for non-payment of poll tax between April 1, 1991, and March 31, 1993. Each owed £474.55. Mrs Sibley also appeared for non-payment of £428.54 council tax between April 1, 1993, and March 31 this year. Mr Sibley, a retired British Aerospace worker, told the court: "It is a matter of conscience. For 25 years we have been taxed without representation. Parts of the taxes paid were for the education of children. Our children were denied education at a suitable school."

Asked by Ron Clayton, clerk of the court, if he was prepared to pay any or part of the money, Mr Sibley said: "I can make no offer in conscience." The magistrates jailed the couple for 30 days.

Outside court the couple's son Duncan, a car salesman from Maidstone, Kent, said: "They were resigned to the fact that they were going to prison. They will continue not paying their local tax until the council decides to stop. They are standing on a point of principle."

Luton Borough Council said: "There are a series of precautionary measures — final reminders, liability notices to give the maximum opportunity for people to pay. If they continue then we are serious in our intention to prosecute."

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Gay magazine editor accused of offering children to paedophiles in hotels

Briton 'ran child sex ring for clients worldwide'

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

A BRITON accused of being at the centre of a paedophile ring that procured child prostitutes for clients all over the world went on trial in a Belgian court yesterday.

John Stamford, 55, was charged after police raided his premises last year in the small Belgian town of Geel near the Dutch border, and, it is alleged, found a cache of paedophile magazines. Publication and distribution of such material is illegal under Belgian law, but carries a maximum prison term of one year.

However, in addition to the relatively minor criminal charge, Mr Stamford faces a parallel civil action in the same court brought by four human rights organisations, alleging that the magazine acted as the front for "Club Spartacus", an international paedophile ring with an estimated 30,000 members. The court at Turnhout, near Belgium's border with Holland, was told that Mr Stamford operated under the public front of *Spartacus*, a gay travel magazine that has been published since 1970 and has a circulation of 60,000.

If the civil rights organisations, led by the Swiss-based group Terres des Hommes, succeed with their action, Mr Stamford could face a prison term of between ten and 20 years after another criminal trial.

The groups allege that Club Spartacus was a sophisticated and clandestine organisation that operated through a box number in London. The details of each of the members, including their sexual preferences, the desired age of the children and preferred countries of origin were stored on a computer, each entry guarded with a secret code.

The members received personalised "lists" of children, mainly outside Europe. The client would then select a child and indicate his choice to a local middleman. In one of the documents obtained by Terres des Hommes, Mr Stamford offers "boys of every age, shape and type", adding that "between January and May 1978 I personally tested lots of these boys".

Another extract was even more explicit. "Children are available from the age of puberty, or even before. Despite legislation on the protection of minors, nobody has any objections. The majority of the hotels charge you more if you want a European for the night, but not in the case of a Filipino.

"You enter the hall with your boy, you take your key, and you go directly into your room." However, the evidence collected by the human rights groups has not yet convinced prosecutors to bring more series criminal charges at this stage. As a consequence, they have used a Belgian legal procedure which allows them to take action under civil law. The case could set a legal precedent as Belgium does not yet permit prosecution of crimes committed outside the country's borders.

Germany changed its laws last year to allow prosecution of Germans who travel to south-east Asia for child-sex tourism. Mr Stamford, who had previously lived in Germany, moved to Belgium after the change in the German law.

In Britain the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 increased penalities and police powers to tackle child pornography and paedophilia. The Act gives police power to arrest without warrant a person suspected of child pornography. It also increases the penalties for possessing indecent photographs of children, making it an imprisonable offence (up to six months' jail and fines of up to £5,000). Sentences handed down by the courts in Britain for paedophilia-linked offences can be equal to life terms.

BENOIT DOPPAGNE/REUTER



John Stamford, alleged to have stored details of clients' sexual preferences secretly on computer

Widows of RAF crash victims consult lawyers

BY A STAFF REPORTER

RELATIVES of nine RAF men killed when a Hercules aircraft mysteriously crashed are considering legal action after a coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death on eight of the dead.

There were no survivors and no eye-witnesses to the last moments of transport aircraft XV193, which went down on a "dummy drop" exercise in the narrow Glen Loch valley, Tayside, in May last year.

After the inquest yesterday, Anne Young, whose husband, Squadron Leader Graeme Young, 54, was one of those who died, said a group of widows were discussing possible action. "We are concerned and we have reservations over the RAF board of inquiry report. We are being advised by solicitors. We do not want this to happen again," she said.

Relatives of all the dead attended the inquest at Wroughton, Wiltshire, where they heard Captain David Carter, a civil airline and former Hercules pilot who flew with Squadron Leader Young, claim that the aircraft which crashed was carrying 46,000lb of fuel. This was the amount needed for a two-day sortie and in excess of the requirement for the training mission, he said. The extra fuel would have meant the pilot was in an impossible situation as he tried to manoeuvre out of the valley at low speed and height, Captain Carter claimed.

Squadron Leader Richard Muse, flight safety officer from Strike Command, High Wycombe, said he could not comment on the captain's opinions. The fuel load had been noted in the board's report.

David Masters, the Wiltshire coroner, told Captain Carter that the inquest could not deal with questions that might form part of civil proceedings.

A fatal accident inquiry had previously been held in Scotland for another victim, Sergeant Craig Hilliard, 23, a specialist air load master, from Inverness.

BNP hides identity to book church hall

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England is to publish guidelines on letting meeting rooms after the British National Party used the name of the Ramblers' Association to book a church hall.

The BNP admitted last night that it had used false names to book meeting rooms, but said this was because few people would accept bookings under its own name.

The Rev David Steven, of Mansfield Woodhouse parish church, Nottinghamshire, alerted church officials after he found his hall filled with BNP members at a regional meeting. Mr Steven said: "Only a few hours earlier I was assured that the groups of people outside were from the Ramblers' Association."

He has warned officials at Church House, Westminster, that the BNP has hired church halls in other parts of the country under the names of a stamp collectors' club, gardening clubs and cyclists' groups.

Mr Steven said he did not permit any political parties, of whatever persuasion, to use his church hall. He said: "I spent six years in South Africa opposing apartheid and I'm blowed if I will allow these people to use my hall to encourage racism."

Chinese use cow genes to create bigger carp

BY NICK NUTTALL

CHINESE scientists have put cattle genes into fish to make them grow faster. About 1.5 million young carp are swimming in tanks at the Aquatic Institute in Harbin, China, carrying the cattle genes, the State Science Commission announced yesterday.

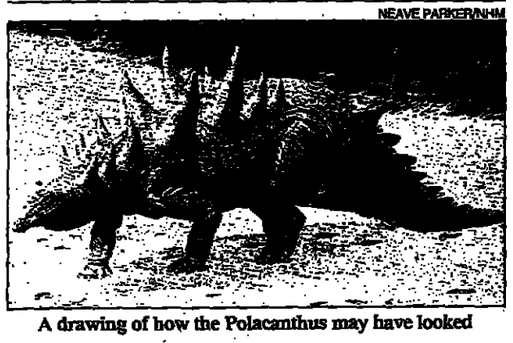
The research, which so far has managed to boost growth rates by a fifth, highlights worldwide efforts to grow bigger fish faster. Researchers in Canada recently claimed they had genetically engineered salmon to be about a third bigger after a year.

The scientists hope the salmon will reach maturity at two rather than four years, boosting the fortunes of fish farmers. The Canadian team used a modified fish growth hormone gene. But the Chinese are believed to be the first to use cattle genes.

A spokesman for the Chinese State Science Commission said yesterday that some researchers believed human genes might be the key to bigger fish but that, for ethical reasons, cattle and sheep genes were being used.

Dr John Clark, of the Roslin Research Station, Lothian, a genetic engineering expert, said yesterday he doubted if cattle growth genes could operate successfully in fish.

NEAVE PARKER/NHM



A drawing of how the Polacanthus may have looked

New dinosaur species found

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A DINOSAUR skeleton that spent years in the storerooms of a museum has been identified as a new species of *Polacanthus*, a spiny dinosaur that lived about 120 million years ago.

Found at the Rudgewick Brickworks in West Sussex in 1983, the bones were given to the Horsham Museum. Jeremy Knight, its curator said: "We thought it was an iguanadon. We briefly had it on display with a load of prehistoric crocodile bones and teeth which we thought were parts of it. But we are delighted now that we know we have something really special."

The *Polacanthus*, which was 20ft long and had an armoured back and tail, has been identified by Bill Blows, a lecturer in biological sciences at St Bartholomew's College of Nursing. Mr Blows is researching the dinosaur for his PhD and has had the bones moved temporarily to the Natural History Museum in South Kensington. He said that the specimen was one of only four *Polacanthus* found in Britain and was of a different species from the other three, which were found on the Isle of Wight. The armour on the creature's back and pelvis was used to protect against predators, while spikes on the tail may have helped to control heat.

"When I saw what they had at Horsham I rubbed my eyes in disbelief," Mr Blows said. "Apart from the four in this country, there have been only two other unconfirmed dinosaurs of this species found anywhere else in the world and they are in America."

One of the mysteries is how *Polacanthus*, which looked something like a giant armadillo, survived for 15 million years. It is believed that its tree-trunk-like legs could not have managed more than a shambling trot and that it was prey to a number of larger meat eaters as well as smaller pack-hunting predators.

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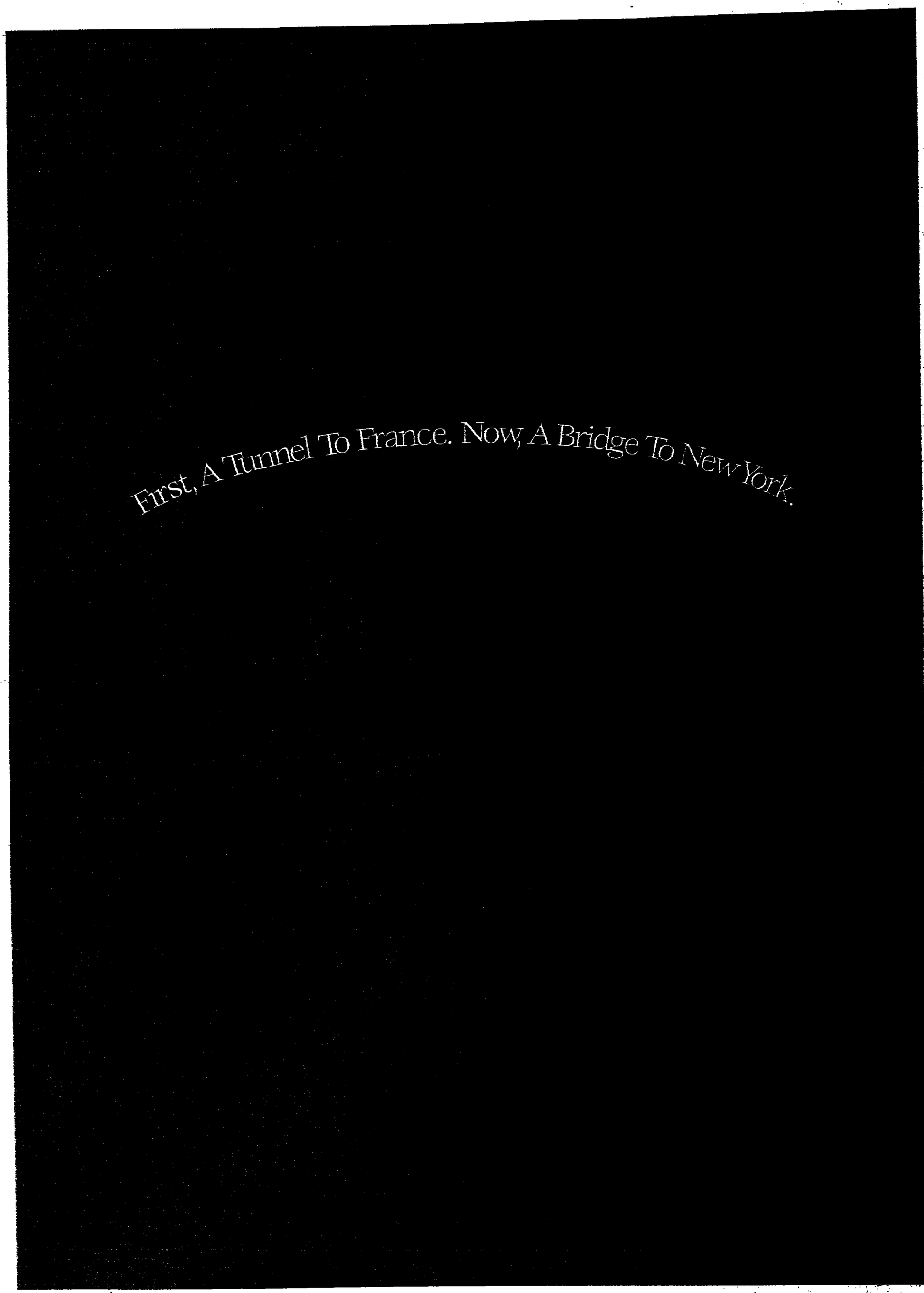
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Lecturers agree to declare affairs with their students

BY PAUL WILKINSON AND EMMA WILKINS

A UNIVERSITY'S lecturers have agreed to declare any personal relationships they might form with students. The arrangement has been made in an effort to stop accusations of bias, particularly in examination marking.

The proposal has been formally adopted and will become part of a new code of conduct adopted by the 800 teaching staff at Northumbria University in Newcastle upon Tyne. Failure to make a declaration could lead to disciplinary action.

The move has been welcomed by staff and representatives of the university's 17,000 students, who agree it will help to combat alleged cases of preferential treatment.

Northumbria, formerly Newcastle Polytechnic, has become the first further education establishment to act on the issue, which has been worrying academics for years.

Gordon Campbell, the pro vice-chancellor, said it was not designed to ban affairs between students and lecturers, but to ensure it did not lead to favouritism. "We discourage relationships with students, but we have to accept they do occur, especially in the case of a mature student who might be older than the member of staff. More than one lecturer has married a student. Where relationships occur, the lecturer must declare it and arrangements made to ensure assessments are carried out fairly and at arm's length.

"The information will remain strictly confidential and will not be written down or put in a personnel file. The lecturer should tell their head of department or head of student services, who will do nothing with the information except to ensure that the position of the student and teacher is protected with regard to their work. We are not making any moral or legal judgments. However, if the relationship does become a contentious issue then obviously disciplinary measures could follow."

The code also covered the declaration of family and business interests. "Staff could be accused of bias if a relative or friend joined the course, or a business associate."

Karen Rudd, president of the university's students' union said: "I'm sure there have been cases of lecturers favouring one student over another when it comes to marking papers. There will also have been cases of students unfairly accusing lecturers of bias, so it will help get rid of that element."

Cambridge University Students' Union gave the code a cautious welcome. "If this is entirely confidential and done simply to protect students and staff from an awkward and unfair situation in assessments, it may be entirely sensible," a spokesman said.

At Oxford University, Nadia Hall, an editor of *Cherwell*, said the code appeared to be irrelevant and difficult to police. "People who are professionals should not let having a relationship affect the standards of their marking in any case," she added.

CHRIS HARRIS



Kate Glover, of Thatching Advisory Services, Finchampstead, Berkshire, at work on the roof of the Globe Theatre, which is now rising fast by the Thames opposite St Paul's. Many traditional building crafts are being used for the replica of the original Shakespearean playhouse

Education service neglects children with special needs

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

ONLY one local authority in 60 throughout England is meeting the statutory target of six months to assess children who are thought to have special educational needs, the Audit Commission reports today.

Many education authorities are still taking more than a year to produce the statements that trigger extra classroom support.

Today's report measures the progress in the two years since the commission discovered that some authorities were taking up to three years to assess those children with special learning difficulties. During that time, the average wait has fallen by two months.

But, in a sample of more than half the English education authorities, only Buckinghamshire met the six-month target.

A new code of practice was issued after the commission's last report on the subject.

Today's report says that clearer local guidelines are required on what constitutes special need if the process is to be speeded further.

Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission, said: "Some of the most vulnerable children have special educational needs. They require rapid assessment and help to overcome their difficulties."

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said pupils and parents were being failed by the system. The educational psychology services of local authorities were underfunded and understaffed, he added.

MAKING KNOCKANDO IS A BIT LIKE DOING THE TIMES CROSSWORD.

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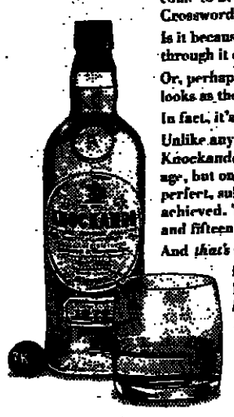
Or, perhaps, because the word Knockando looks as though it should be followed by 'anag'?

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Decline and fall of British bulldog endangers breed

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE British bulldog, long the symbol of native grit and tenacity, has slipped so far in the nation's esteem that it does not even feature in the dog lover's top 20, according to the Kennel Club, the ultimate arbiter of matters canine.

So pronounced is the breed's decline that the club, which runs Cruft's Show, is calling for it to be declared a "national treasure", as the Japanese have done with the Shiba Inu, a species of hunting dog.

Brian Leonard, the club's chief spokesman, said: "The number of bulldogs has fallen quite significantly since before the Second World War and recognising the breed in this way would help to ensure that it never died out.

"In the 1930s one in seven registered dogs was a bulldog. Now they account for barely 2 per cent. Dogs do go in and out of fashion and bulldogs are just not that popular any more. One reason could be that they are difficult to breed." John Bower, a former president of the British Veterinary Association, said the Kennel Club had contributed to the unpopularity of bulldogs by specifying that they should be bred with massive heads. That guideline changed only about six years ago.



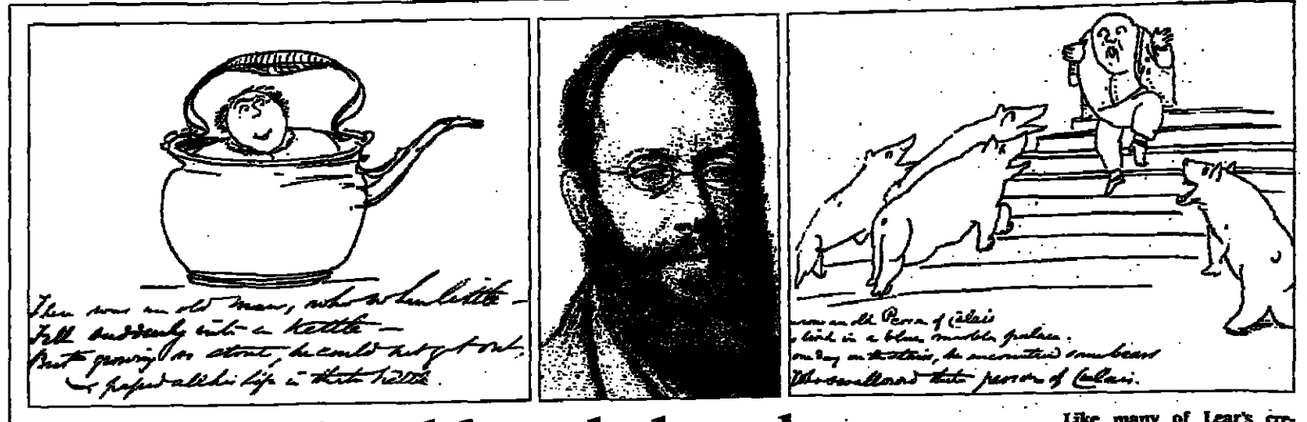
Labradors have replaced bulldogs in popularity

"The foreshortening of the head causes breathing problems, and that, with its weight, means that the modern bulldog is not much good for anything more than a gentle amble round the park," he said. "These days people have far more breeds to choose from and they want a lively dog they can take for long walks and runs."

The labrador, a retriever brought to England from Newfoundland by fishermen in about 1800, was the most popular dog for the third consecutive year. In 1990 it was beaten by the Yorkshire terrier. Another foreigner, the alsatian, or German shepherd dog, came second in the popularity league, based on the number of new dogs registered in each breed last year.

The top ten were: labrador (25,261), alsatian (19,960), golden retriever (14,685), West Highland white terrier (14,468), cavalier King Charles spaniel (13,705), Yorkshire terrier (13,041), cocker spaniel (13,002), English springer spaniel (11,148), boxer (8,134) and Staffordshire bull terrier (5,727). By contrast, only 1,939 bulldogs were registered.

The labrador is less popular with judges. The last time it won Best in Show at Cruft's was 1937, while the cocker spaniel has six wins.



UNKNOWN drawings and limericks by Edward Lear, above, discovered in a box of books bought at a jumble sale for a few pounds, fetched £9,200 at an auction yesterday.

The finder realised her good fortune when she unpacked the box at home. Inside a small, blue-bound volume were limericks by the Victorian nonsense writer, each accompanied by original drawings.

Peter Collingridge, of Christie's in London, believes the limericks were written in the 1830s or early 1840s, before publication of Lear's first book, *A Book of Nonsense*, in 1846. The drawings are bound with 32 lithographic leaves of the first edition of Lear's timeless work.

Four of the seven drawings are previously unpublished and three of these — An old person of Oude, An old man whose Approach, and An old lady of Joppa — were previously unknown.

The newly discovered work was almost certainly penned for the family of the Earl of Derby at Knowsley, who had commissioned Lear, between 1832 and 1836, to draw the fine plates for the book *The Knowsley Menagerie*. Lear was popular with his patron's household, particularly the Earl's grandchildren, and it was to amuse them that he composed and published the first of his limericks anonymously.

Unpublished work by Lear is rare and yesterday's successful bid of £9,200 exceeded the estimate of £6,000 to £8,000. Christie's said afterwards: "It was a truly amazing find. The lucky vendor only bought the box for the books at the top and got the shock of her life when she looked underneath."

The work was found by an unnamed woman in London. The new owner, an anonymous telephone bidder, will be able to read such ditties as:

There was a young man, who when little
Fell suddenly into a kettle
But growing so stout
He could not get out
And passed all his life in that kettle

Like many of Lear's creations, another of the limericks tells of a sticky end:

There was an old person of Calais
Who lived in a blue marbled palace
One day on the stairs
He encountered some bears
Who swallowed that person of Calais

Lear left England for health reasons in 1837 and devoted the rest of his life to landscape painting, travelling extensively throughout southern Europe, Palestine and India.

Finally he settled in San Remo, Italy, giving drawing lessons to Queen Victoria during an infrequent visit to England. He died in San Remo in 1888.

Jumble sale buy becomes lucrative box of nonsense

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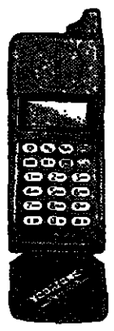
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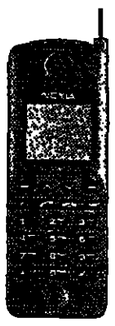


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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Bid your four card major

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

1	♠Q932	♥Q76	♦54	♣K532
2	♠K653	♥J94	♦KJ4	♣1063
3	♠10742	♥8	♦K8	♣K108652

Today's Refresher column is about a much-misunderstood area of bidding. Your partner opens One Diamond. What would you reply with each of the above hands?

Answer: In all cases you should respond One Spade. It is amazing how many people consider that bidding a suit at the one level shows a stronger hand than bidding 1NT. These players always bid 1NT on weak hands, including 1 and 2 above. *But it is quite wrong:* it is true that the suit response *may* be much stronger, but in the first instance it only promises about five high-card points: so by replying in a suit you are *not* misleading your partner as to your strength: second, if the partnership has a 4-4 major fit, the only way to get into it is for the responder *to bid his four card major*, more or less however weak he is.

For example, take hand 2, rewritten in the diagram below with a likely hand for opener:

♠AQ104	♠K653
♥KQ3	♥J94
♦AQ108	♦KJ4
♣96	♣1063

The sequence should go:

West	East
1♦	1♠
3♠	4♠
All pass	

Four Spades is a sound contract which will make provided there are no bad breaks. All too frequently the bidding [illegible]

[illegible]	East
[illegible]	1NT
2NT	3NT
[illegible]	

In this contract the defence will probably take at least four club tricks and the ace of hearts.

Hand 3 illustrates a slightly *different point*: you are not strong enough to respond at the two level with only six points, so that leaves One Spade as the only alternative.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

New gambit

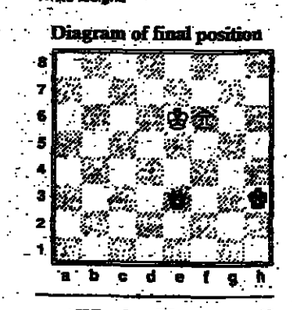
A new gambit, 3 ... d5, sacrificing Black's central pawn, has been credited to Chris Dunworth, an aspirant for the international master title. His idea helped the Danish player Olesen to a win in the Café Baroque tournament in London. The overall winner was Neil McDonald, recording his fifth triumph this year in an international *standard competition.*

White: Dive
Black: Olesen
Café Baroque, 1994
Dunworth Gambit

1	d4	g6
2	c4	Bg7
3	e4	d5
4	cxd5	c6
5	Nc3	cxd5
6	exd5	Nf6
7	Bb5+	Nbd7
8	Bxd7+	Qxd7
9	Qf3	b6
10	Nge2	Bb7
11	Nf4	Rd8
12	Be3	Nxd5
13	Nbxd5	Bxd5
14	Nxd5	Qxd5
15	Qxd5	Rxd5
16	0-0-0	Kd7
17	Rd2	Rc8+
18	Kb1	e6
19	h3	b5
20	Rc1	Rxc1+
21	Kxc1	a6
22	Kc2	Rd6
23	Kb3	Kc6
24	Rc2+	Kb7
25	Rd2	Rd7
26	f3	Bf8
27	a4	bxa4+
28	Kxa4	Bd8
29	b4	Rd5
30	Kb3	Rb5
31	Kc4	Be7
32	Rb2	Kc6
33	Bd2	a5
34	Rb3	Bxb4
35	Bxb4	Rxb4+
36	Rxb4	axb4
37	Kxb4	Kd5
38	Kc3	g5
39	Kd3	h5
40	Ke3	f6
41	Kd3	f5
42	Kc3	e5
43	dxe5	Kxe5
44	Kd3	Kf4
45	Ke2	Kg3
46	Kf1	Kh2
47	Kf2	g4
48	hxg4	hxg4
49	f4	Kh1
50	Kg3	Kg1
51	Kh4	Kxg2
52	Kg5	Kh3
53	Kxf5	g3
54	Ke6	g2
55	f5	g1Q
56	f6	Qe3+

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Winning Move, page 48

Your move?

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PRUDENTIAL

Death rate tables hailed as a spur to hospitals

BY JEREMY LAURANCE AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

DEATH rates among NHS patients in England are to be drawn up as a spur to hospitals and health authorities to improve their care.

Up to 20 health authorities are to be asked to examine their death rates from a range of 21 common conditions including breast and cervical cancer, diabetes, asthma and stroke. The aim is to develop a system for measuring levels of medical care that can be used to assess the NHS's performance in improving health.

Ministers hope this will head off criticism that present performance figures, based on the number of patients treated, measure only how much the NHS is doing and not how wellit does it.

Details of the English move, contained in a Health Department briefing paper seen by *The Times*, emerged yesterday as the Scottish Office confirmed that it is to publish death rates among hospital patients for the first time. The death rates will be among 17 measures of clinical outcomes to be published next month for 31 Scottish NHS trusts. They will include hospitalisation rates as well as death rates and are expected to cover the same areas as the English measures. Figures show that death rates vary around the country up to two-fold from breast cancer and up to ten-fold from asthma.

The British Medical Association said it welcomed more accurate information for patients but gave a warning that "crude death rates do not reflect the quality of care in a hospital" and that their publication in Scotland "would cause serious and unnecessary anxiety".

The Health Department said the proposals for piloting death rates in England, issued by the Central Health Outcomes Unit and due to start in the new year, had not been seen by ministers or agreed by the medical profession. "It represents our initial proposals for pilot testing clinical outcome measures. Much development work needs to be done," a spokesman said. A report on the work is due in early 1996.

The interest in league tables has been stimulated by wide variations in death rates across the country. Figures for 1988-92 show that the deaths from breast cancer were highest in Hartlepool, at 23 per cent above the national average, and lowest in Darlington, a few miles away, at 38 per cent below average. Deaths from asthma ranged from 177 per cent above average in southwest Durham to 82 per cent below average in Dartford and Gravesham in Kent.

Doctors have said that the number of deaths in each district is too small to be meaningful. Even in the worst districts, the number of deaths may be in single figures.

In its paper, the Outcomes Unit says there has been an underlying assumption that medical treatment leads to an improvement in health. "But in reality, relatively little is known about the outcomes actually experienced by patients or the public or how far those outcomes are attributable to the care given."

The unit says there were 775 deaths in patients under 65 with "common surgical conditions" — appendicitis, hernia, and gall stones — between 1988 and 1992. These are "considered to be avoidable and a measure of the quality of surgical services available locally".

The aim is to identify "realistic and useable indicators of health outcome". The results of the pilot work will depend on an "imaginative, dedicated and rigorous approach" from the selected health authorities, which will include those at the good or bad end of the spectrum.

Most of the measures to be used in the league tables are of death rates but they also include abortion rates, hospitalisation rates for diabetics and for hip fractures, the number of patients accepted for renal dialysis, and the proportion of boys with undescended testicles who have the deformity corrected before the age of five.



Bottomley: wants tables to reflect quality of care

SIMON WALKER



The new portrait, "Three Princes", with its creator, the artist André Durand, who denies that it makes its subjects look silly

Portrait of princes surprises Palace

BY JOHN YOUNG

ROYAL portraits come in many guises, but it is a fair bet that the latest offering will not grace the walls of any palace. A painting unveiled yesterday depicts the Prince of Wales in the ceremonial robes of a Knight of the Order of the Garter astride a white charger, with his sons Prince William and Prince Harry in jeans and baseball caps.

The artist, André Durand, said it was "a mythical and symbolic presentation of the continuity of the monarchy", and dismissed suggestions that it made all three princes look silly.

The painting, entitled "Three Princes" and measuring 80 inches square, was commissioned on behalf of the Grand Order of Water Rats showbusiness charity. Paul Daniels, the magician, who unveiled the portrait at the Café Royal, said it was a powerful image: "It is good to have the grandeur of royalty reflected properly."

Macho boffins put appliance of science before family

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

MEN working in high-technology industries are so wedded to the job that their home and family life suffer, a study has found. Working 80 hours a week and often at weekends and bank holidays, too, they glory in a "boffiny masculinity" which echoes the male-dominated world of the old coalfields.

Researchers at the Open University found that even when husbands were at home with their wives and families, they were preoccupied with solving problems at work. The researchers, Professor Doreen Massey and Nick Henry, conducted interviews with 19 companies, 60 scientists and engineers and 43 of their partners. Men hold 90 per cent of high-tech jobs.

Only one company actively discouraged employees from unpaid overtime, the researchers said in the annual report of the Economic and Social Research Council, which supported the work. At the others, the hours worked were always above those contracted; time off in lieu was seldom taken; and company claims to be "breaking down the barriers between home and work" were a one-way experience — an invasion of home by work rather than the reverse. The companies said that the men worked so hard because they enjoyed it, though their spouses were more inclined to use terms such as workaholism and obsessiveness, or to complain that their husbands wanted to opt out of other responsibilities. Many of the men were proud of their ability to solve technical problems at work but claimed to be incompetent at everything else except sport, particularly jobs around the home. "They aren't techno-nerds, they just love their work and sometimes seem to be more at ease with machines and science," Professor Massey said. "It is often considered macho to work hard and live off fast food. The companies feed off the boffiny masculinity and encourage it, applauding logic in the same way that coalfields praised brute strength."

This style of life could cause marriage difficulties and stress-related illness, the researchers found. The men's partners, who often had professional qualifications of their own, found it difficult to sustain a career, bring up children and keep the home going. "This goes beyond the 'normal' sexism of gender division of labour in the home," the researchers concluded. "These are middle-class, professional people, aware of feminism and the potential dawn of the New Man." Parents and grandparents were often drafted in to provide help, while some of the companies provided services to ease the burden.

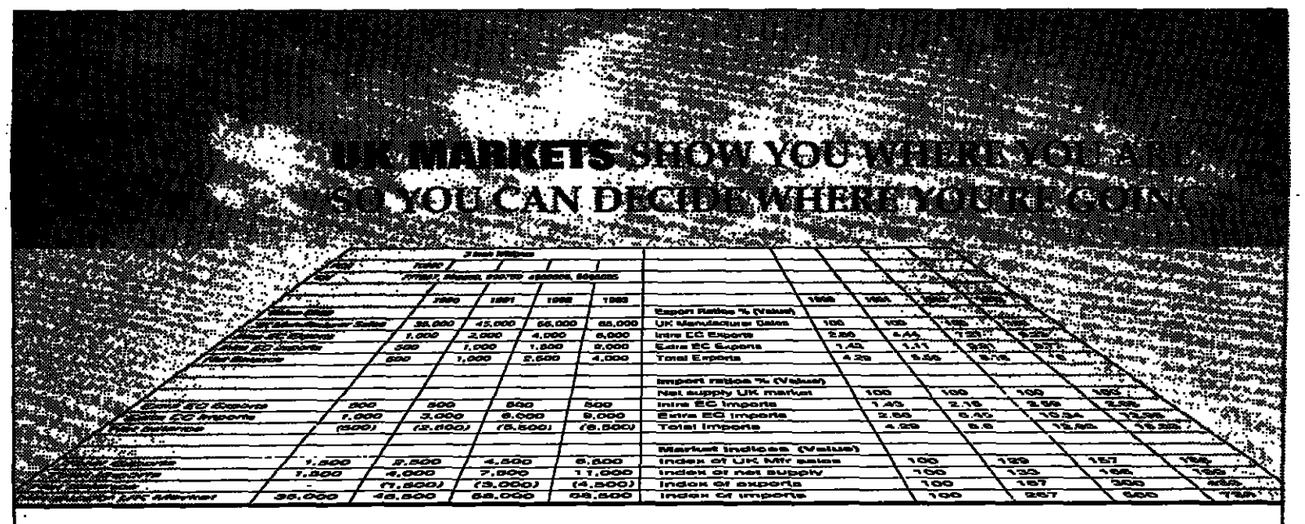
Unlike workaholics in the finance sector, the scientists and engineers earned comparatively modest salaries, with few on more than £50,000.

Bootlegger evaded £24,000 tax

A MAN who made his living by selling cigarettes that he smuggled into Britain was jailed for six months yesterday by magistrates at Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Michael Theed, 50, of Eastbourne, sold hundreds of thousands of duty-free cigarettes in the ex-servicemen's club where he was treasurer, and from his home.

Theed, of Eastbourne, who admitted fraudulent evasion of excise duty, bought an average of 6,000 cigarettes on each weekly trip to France. Simon Williams, for the prosecution, described Theed as "a professional and systematic bootlegger" who had avoided paying more than £24,000 in tax.



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Clarke ridicules Labour and its economic 'twaddle'

BY JONATHAN PRYNN AND ALICE THOMSON

KENNETH CLARKE dismissed Labour's economic policies yesterday as "twaddle" and "woolly rhetoric" that had utterly failed to convince the British electorate.

The Chancellor was responding to a scathing attack from his shadow, Gordon Brown, who opened the sixth and final day of the commons debate on the Queen's Speech. Mr Clarke said the measures implemented by the Government meant that Britain faced "the most encouraging economic prospects for many years". The country now had the fastest growing major economy in Europe, productivity was rising, unemployment was falling, exports were at record levels and inflation was at a 27-year low.

Although voters did not yet "feel good" about the economy, as the recovery took hold they would come to realise the disastrous economic consequences of a Labour government. "The British people know in their bones that Labour would be soft on inflation, soft on strikes and soft on public spending," he said.

In the boom-bust economic cycles of previous governments Labour had only delivered bust "and they would deliver it again". The Government was "faced by a collection of sound-bite merchants who don't have an idea in their head". Referring to Mr Brown's celebrated exposition of Labour's new economic thinking, the Chancellor said: "Post classical neo-socialism" was all Labour had to offer.

Mr Clarke also hinted that shareholders might be given stronger powers to block excessive pay rises for company executives. Challenged by Labour to condemn the 75 per cent increase paid to the chief executive of British Gas, he said: "We should look to what can be done to increase the ability of shareholders to take responsibility for the pay and rewards of the chief executives of their companies."

Mr Brown had opened the debate with the claim that the Government was "so paralysed by the tyranny of its factions and the impotence of its leadership, that it is unfit to govern in this country". He ridiculed the Tory party over their divisions on Europe and the leaked draft memorandum from the deputy chairman John Maples, expressing serious doubts about policy.

In a powerful contribution to the debate Sir Edward Heath told MPs: "There has been a loss of confidence by the citizen in this Parliament and the only people who can put it right are its members." He criticised the salary increase of the British Gas chief executive, saying: "I coined the phrase the 'unacceptable face of capitalism'. This is the unacceptable face of post-privatisation. It does great harm to private enterprise."

On the Maples memo, he said, "I cannot understand how a deputy chairman could be appointed who is such a simpleton as to think he can put all this on paper and nobody else will ever see it. We live in the age of the leak. everything leaks. I hope the Government will take notice of his analysis on the feeling of fear among voters. But I am absolutely disgusted at some of his proposals."

☐ The by-election for the marginal Tory Dudley West constituency will be on December 15. The contest was caused by the death last month of Dr John Blackburn, who had a 5,789 majority over Labour in 1992. The main party candidates are Graham Postles (C), Ian Pearson (Lab), Mike Hadley (Lib Dem).



Molyneaux wins by holding his peace

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON

JAMES MOLYNEAUX, the Ulster Unionist leader, won the annual Parliamentarian of the Year award yesterday, but not for his stirring speeches or his rousing rhetoric.

William the Silent or Greta Garbo never deployed taciturnity to better effect, said Dominic Lawson, editor of *The Spectator*, the weekly magazine and joint sponsor of the awards.

Mr Molyneaux was honoured in recognition of his role in the Ulster peace process. Yet not a syllable had he uttered in the first Commons debate on the ceasefire. Throughout the most delicate phases of the peace process there was not a single trenchant sound-bite for the six o'clock news bulletins, and scarcely a quote for the following day's front pages.

All the judges agreed, however, that without his understated approach and almost unnoticed slipping in and out of Downing Street at key moments the peace process would not have been possible. More than John Hume's emotive interventions, certainly more than the Rev Ian Paisley's outbursts, Mr Molyneaux by his very reticence was the one Ulster politician who had contributed most to peace in our time.

Mr Molyneaux capped his dislike of the limelight by failing to show up at the prize-giving ceremony at the Savoy Hotel. He had a prior engagement so the award was collected for him by his Ulster Unionist colleague David Trimble.

The Backbencher of the Year award went to Roger Berry (Lab, Kingswood) for his Disabled Person's Bill, which led to the demise of the minister Nicholas Scott. Peter Mandelson (Lab, Hartlepool) was nominated as the Member to Watch, an accolade awarded only three years ago to David Mellor. But then, as Mr Mandelson noted, few could deny that Mr Mellor remains a member to watch.

Gillian Shephard, Education Secretary, received a new award as Minister to Watch, and Edwina Currie (Con, Derbyshire South) was named Campaigner of the Year for her work on the Bill to reduce the homosexual age of consent.

Taxpayer funds trips for Tory wives

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

TAXPAYERS will have to foot a £40,000 bill for overseas trips by trade ministers and their wives in the past year.

The cost of sending the President of the Board of Trade, Michael Heseltine, and his wife Anne on two trips, to Australia and Japan and to South Africa, was £20,000, Labour said last night.

More than £12,000 was spent on a trip to Singapore, Australia and New Zealand by Earl and Countess Ferrers. A visit to South America by Tim Eggar, energy minister, and his wife Charmian cost £11,000. Neil Hamilton, the former corporate affairs minister, and the trade and technology minister, Ian Taylor, took their wives to Europe.

Stephen Byers, a Labour whip, who obtained the figures from the Department of Trade and Industry, yesterday said: "I suppose we should be pleased that Tory ministers are spending more time with their own wives, but they shouldn't be doing so at the taxpayers' expense."

The DTI refused to give details of any official activities undertaken by the wives. Mr Byers is calling for an investigation into the necessity of wives of ministers in every department accompanying them on official overseas visits.

Portillo's big day as life of the party

BY ANDREW PIERCE

IT WILL be the biggest Tory celebration since John Major's surprise election victory in April 1992. But the Prime Minister will be the most conspicuous absentee from the £20,000 party to celebrate Michael Portillo's tenth anniversary as an MP.

Baroness Thatcher, however, is expected to move heaven and earth to be present at the black tie dinner dance on Friday, December 2, to acclaim her latest chosen son and heir.

Not that Lady Thatcher, who passed on the Thatcherite torch to Mr Major until she discovered he "was not one of us", is thought to be very happy with the venue. Alexandra Palace, in the heart of the loony-left Labour stronghold of Haringey, north London, is playing host to 600 Tories who have paid £30 each to pay homage to their hero.

The highlight of the evening will be a five-minute film show of *The Life of Michael Portillo*, charting his glorious rise from his days at Peterhouse, Cambridge, a hotbed of Thatcherism, to his finest hour addressing the faithful at this year's Tory party conference.

The Euro-sceptics in the audience will happily toast Mr Portillo with the £8.50 house Australian wine that has been chosen in preference to a European variety.

The party, which was supposed to be a surprise, has drawn comparison wih the more modest celebration for John Major's tenth anniversary — a small party in Huntingdon, during which he was presented with a silver salver.

But Mr Portillo's constituency officers say the celebration, which will also serve as a Christmas ball, is a fitting tribute. Lionel Zetter, a deputy chairman, said: "We are very proud of what he has achieved in the last ten years."

Not everyone shares the sentiment. A Haringey pop group, Family Cat, whose single *Bring me the Head of Michael Portillo* reached number 42 in the charts, has lodged a petition with Haringey council demanding that the event be cancelled.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, and his ministerial team faced trade and industry questions.

The Government's economic record was the main subject during the sixth and final day of debate on the Queen's Speech. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, clashed in opening speeches. The debate was wound up by Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, and his shadow, Ann Taylor.

In the Lords, peers concentrated on environmental and agricultural issues on the third day of debate on the Queen's Speech.

TODAY: Questions to the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister will be followed by a statement and questions on the coming week's business from Mr Newton. MPs will then debate business deregulation and consider proposed increases in ministerial salaries.

In the Lords, peers will conclude their four-day consideration of the Queen's Speech with a debate on industrial and economic affairs.

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Awkward squad is hellbent on upsetting EU vote

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT whips have met their match in the squadron of Tory MPs intent on rebellion over Europe next week. For once, senior Tory tacticians, expert in psychological warfare, are at a loss over how to persuade the handful of dissidents to retreat from the ultimate rebellion that could conceivably force the Government's collapse, or John Major's downfall.

Conservative business managers have now given up hope of winning round up to eight headstrong Tory MPs preparing to defy the Prime Minister in the supreme test of his authority.

Even those closest to the John Major concede that it is impossible to predict the thought processes driving a backbench awkward squad that has no common objective other than to disrupt a key element of legislation. In a case of bluff and counter-bluff, the factions are likely to stare each other out right up to the start of Monday's debate on raising Britain's contributions to the European Union.

Boosted by Mr Major's insistence that he is prepared to make the issue a matter of confidence, the Government expects to win, especially by securing the support of Ulster Unionists. However, ministers remain nervous about the antics of MPs who might be prepared to lose the Conservative whip by voting against the Government or abstaining from a confidence vote.

The whips' dilemma is exacerbated by the realisation that the dissident band cannot be bought off by threats that preferment might be withdrawn, as the MPs have long abandoned hopes of advancement under the current regime. The rebels for once hold the whip hand.

Twenty-three Tory MPs faced up to the Government over the Maastricht Treaty and a similar number met this week to discuss the tactics of revolt. However, the present rebels represent not only the hard core of anti-European sentiment but the bedrock of backbench dissidence.

Among the most powerful weapons for the whips is the threat that a rebel might be deselected by his or her consituency association before the next general election. those at the forefront of rebellion are likely to believe that their personal following in their constituencies is so strong that even such draconian punishment might not prevent them winning their seats.

Nicholas Winterton, MP for Macclesfield, Teresa Gorman (Billericay) and Sir Teddy Taylor (Southend East) are highly popular MPs in their own right. Behind them stands a phalanx of mavericks, diehard Euro-sceptics and disaffected backbenchers.

Nicholas Budgen, the politically astute former minister, has withstood constituency pressure and whips' cajoling. John Wilkinson is known as an MP who has become progressively more bitter over his lack of advancement during 20 years as a backbencher. Sir Richard Body, the Holland-with-Boston MP derided by Mr Major in his "flapping white coats" outburst, has already threatened to resign his seat over government policy. Richard Shepherd, MP for Aldridge-Brownhills, has become a recurrent irritant to the Government on several issues and is unlikely to flinch from further conflict.

Tony Marlow, MP for Northampton North, has become a self-professed leader of those MPs determined to force Mr Major out of office and is highly likely to seize on a critical vote that happens to fit his anti-European fervour.

However, whips are appeased by the fact that many of the traditional rebels over Maastricht have already turned away from defying the party on such a crucial vote.





Tory MPs prepared to defy whips next Monday include, clockwise from top left: Teresa Gorman, Nicholas Winterton, Tony Marlow, and Sir Teddy Taylor

Labour pins hopes on Tory rebels

JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE shadow Cabinet last night drafted an amendment to the European Finance Bill with the aim of gaining enough support from Tory rebels and Liberal Democrats to defeat the Government and force a general election.

After a lengthy debate, shadow ministers came up with a formula for a reasoned amendment tied to a tough approach to EC fraud and reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. However, the shadow Cabinet agreed that if the amendment failed, Labour would abstain on the second reading. "The issue of confidence is if the Bill is seriously amended," a senior official said. "If the amendment falls we will not oppose the Bill because we back it in principle."

The amendment, which Labour will put down today or on Friday, will not include a demand for the social chapter to be adopted because such a measure would not maximise support. But the amendment could add a rider delaying the timetable of the Bill or stating that the second reading should not proceed. The Liberal Democrats are unsure that Monday's vote will strictly be a confidence issue and doubt enough Tory rebels will back Labour's motion.

Bonsor promises discretion in dealing with dirty linen

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Nicholas Bonsor, the Tory grandee challenging Sir Marcus Fox in tonight's vote for chairmanship of the 1922 Committee, yesterday promised a more discreet approach to dealings with the Prime Minister.

In a criticism of Sir Marcus's outspoken style, Sir Nicholas said: "What I can offer is a slightly old-fashioned approach to the 1922 Committee. It ought to be what it used to be, a committee which sends its views privately to the Prime Minister and not one which airs its dirty linen publicly."

The MP for Upminster gave his pledge as it was disclosed that he has the backing of heavyweight figures from Left and Right of the party. He has been proposed by John Biffen, the Euro-sceptic former Cabinet minister, and seconded by Peter Temple-Morris, leader of the leftwing Lollards grouping.

Mr Temple-Morris predicted that Sir Nicholas would get a "very substantial vote". But with the rightwing 92 Group canvassing for Sir Marcus, he remains the clear favourite in a contest that, for all the denials from those involved, is being seen as a proxy test of John Major's leadership and is also entwined with the feud over Europe. Some 250 Tory backbenchers, excluding ministers and whips but including unpaid ministerial parliamentary aides, will crowd into Committee Room 14 in the Commons at 6pm for the secret ballot that will also choose the five other officers of the 1922 Committee and the 12-strong executive.

MPs will vote first on the chairmanship. They will be given ballot papers by government whips, who by invitation of the committee will act as scrutineers. The election of the chairman should be over in 45 minutes, with a whip giving the result but not the voting figures

Mutineers seem happy to go down with the ship

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Tory party has to make up its mind whether it is serious about remaining in office. At present, there is a mood of feverishness, almost amounting to nihilism in the case of a handful of MPs who do not seem to care whether the party stays in power. Some are motivated by hatred for John Major: some by their passionate opposition to the European Union. This evening's contest for the 1922 chairmanship is one symptom, but it is merely a prelude to next Monday's vote on the Bill raising British contributions to the European Budget.

The main, or least most vocal, critics of Mr Major are on the anti-Europe Right. But there is a big gulf between the Cabinet Right and their backbench allies. The Cabinet Euro-sceptics have no love for the works of Brussels, as Tuesday's speeches from Michael Portillo and Jonathan Aitken showed. But they will keep their dissent within limits. They will not capsize the ship as Tony Marlow, Nicholas Winterton, Teresa Gorman and a few others seem ready to contemplate.

The Cabinet Euro-sceptics accept the Budget Bill as an unwelcome necessity to fulfil existing commitments. They believe the main focus should be on the intergovernmental conference in 1996. For the moment, they are prepared to go along with the Prime Minister's idea of a flexible Europe: opposing the social chapter but leaving open monetary union until a decision has to be taken. In contrast, the hard core of backbench Euro-sceptics want an immediate unequivocal rejection by Mr Major of British participation in a single currency. That would be unacceptable to Kenneth Clarke and Douglas Hurd, amongst others, and anyway, as the Cabinet Euro-sceptics accept, it would open up a completely unnecessary row since the issue may not arise for a few years.

The current storm at Westminster is similar to previous ones which have occurred since the election. There is a Duke of York quality about them. They involve threats of rebellion, usually over Europe, together with renewed speculation about the Prime Minister's future. In each case, Mr Major and the Government have survived, though often not without some brinkmanship and with considerable damage to their public standing. The same is likely to be true again. The Government should get its European Bill, Mr Major should carry on, without an election — though Mr Clarke dramatically raised the stakes last night by highlighting the consituttional consequences of defeat. But the cumulative effect is debilitating to the Tories' image, as shown by the new MORI poll in today's issue of *The Times*.

The impression is of a Government stumbling from one mishap to another. Mr Major may protest ministers are busy with with a full programme of legislation and administration, and with Northern Ireland. That is all true, but it does not undo the damage of repeated headlines about party divisions. The parliamentary system depends on a high degree of party cohesion and discipline. That is now under threat. No wonder there is talk of removing the whip and, even unofficially, not endorsing candidates who oppose the Government on a confidence issue.

One senior minister said this week that he had hoped by now Tory ratings would have started to improve. That has not happened. Instead, there has been a deepening sense of disillusionment with the Tories for being in office too long. He believed the election would be decided by the balance between this "time for a change" view and the reappearance of the "feel-good" factor as the economy grows and taxes are cut. The hard core of Euro-rebels are making it much more difficult for Mr Major to claim that the Tories should be given a fifth term, and some do not mind.

PETER RIDDELL

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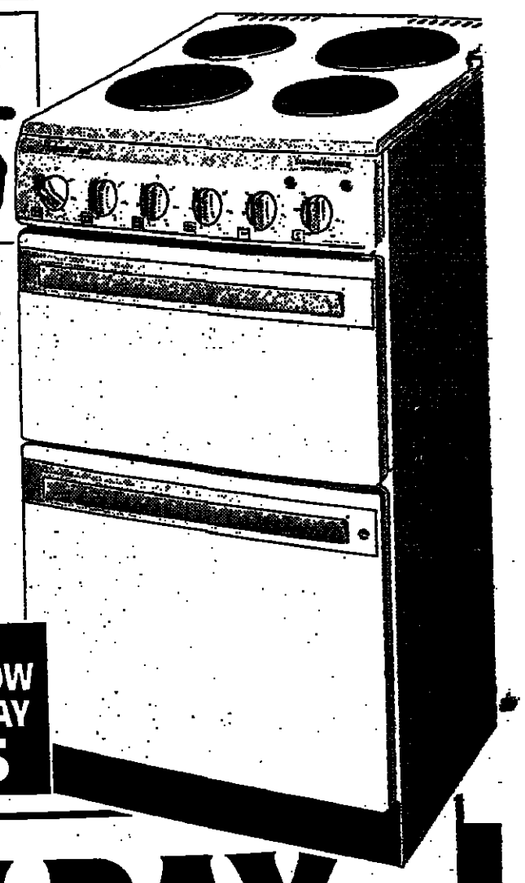
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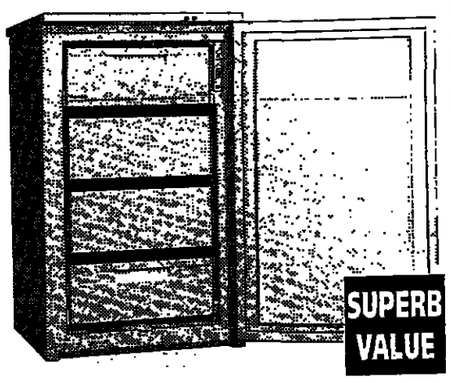
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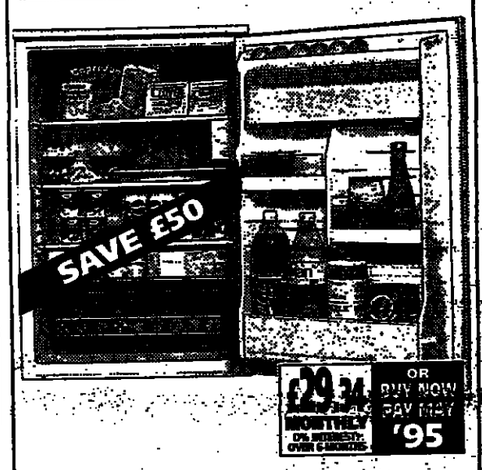


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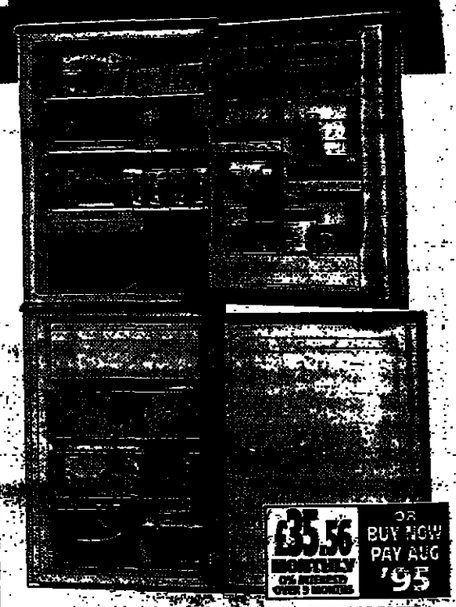


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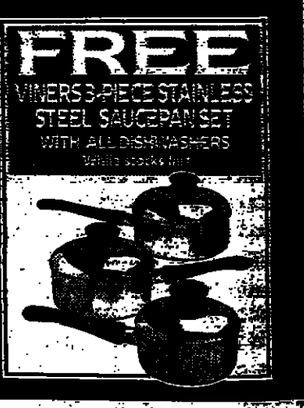
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هكذا من الاعلى

East disappointed as Kohl sets price for entry to Union

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl, the German Chancellor, yesterday pledged strong German support for Eastern European efforts to join Nato and the European Union, and swept aside criticism that Bonn was watering down its commitment to the region.

Herr Kohl, presenting his government programme for the next four years, emphasised that East European entry to Nato and the European Union must be closely linked.

"It is in the German, but also in the broadly understood European, interest that the western border of Poland should not remain the eastern frontier of the European Union," he said, to scattered applause from parliament.

The comments came at a time when Poland and Central European states are grumbling that they have not been invited — as promised — to the European summit in Essen on December 9. Herr Kohl yesterday said that a strategic document on Eastern entry would be presented to the heads of state in Essen, but the German presidency has proved a disappointment for Eastern Europe.

There are three main reasons for the apparent failure of the Germans to shape a new European *Ostpolitik*.

☐ First, France has been blowing hot and cold both on EU and Nato entry. French (as well as Bavarian) farmers are nervous about the implications of Polish and Hungarian entry for the common agricultural policy.

France, as the next president of the European Union (followed by Spain and Italy), may well shift the emphasis from Central Europe to the Mediterranean. So far Germany, through Herr Kohl's friendship with Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, has managed to bridge the North-South gap in the Union, but the Chancellor's grip has been slipping.

☐ Apart from Franco-German friction on Central Europe, there is disagreement within Nato, and within the Chancellor's Cabinet, about signing up Eastern candidates for the alliance.

However, the accession of Finland — giving the EU a long, common border with Russia for the first time — will have the effect of making Germany even more sensitive to Russian interests.

Despite the political problems, Bonn is veering towards a tight linkage of Nato and European membership for the new democracy. A common European defence policy will not work if some members are allied, through Nato, with America and some are not.

☐ Finally, Germany is starting to come to terms with its own limitations. The presidency of the EU, it now understands, is more of a constraint than a political advantage. Instead of pushing its national interests in Central Europe, Germany has been obliged to secure consensus. That has cramped its style.

So, too, have the grumbles from German industry and small business about Eastern entry. Cheap imported garden gnomes from Poland recently caused an uproar; even the German Coffin Makers' Federation has been furiously complaining about Eastern competition.

☐ **Brussels:** The European Commission moved yesterday to prepare Eastern European countries for EU membership by reducing the imbalance of food trade between the two blocs (George Brock writes).

East European exports to the EU are falling while EU food exports to the East are rising, and the Commission's proposals are designed to reverse the trends.



Rudolf Scharping, the Social Democrat leader, addresses the Bundestag after the speech by Helmut Kohl, left

Court tells Tapie to pay debt of £160m

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE colourful career of Bernard Tapie, the French tycoon, hit its lowest point yesterday when a court ordered him to pay back debts of 1.3 billion francs (£160 million).

The judgement leaves M Tapie, who became a symbol for easy money in the 1980s, facing bankruptcy and the prospect of losing his 17th-century mansion in Paris. Worse, it could mean that he is declared ineligible for public office, blocking his chances of gaining immunity from prosecution by being elected Mayor of Marseilles.

The former chairman of Olympic Marseilles football club will be back in court today, when he faces a fine of several million francs for trying to pass off his pleasure boat as a merchant vessel to avoid tax. His affairs will be under judicial scrutiny again tomorrow when his three remaining companies could be placed in liquidation.

For M Tapie, yesterday's judgement by the High Court in Paris could prove most serious. It follows a typically burlesque episode that became public in May when the Crédit Lyonnais bank tried to seize his antique furniture, only to find that he had sent it the night before to a warehouse in north Paris.

The bank, which lent M Tapie the millions it is trying to get back, claimed that he had failed to comply with an agreement to repay his debt over five years. In court yesterday the judge agreed, telling the tycoon that the first tranche of his debts, 337 million francs, should be paid back without delay.

M Tapie's announcement that he would appeal surprised no one, since his legal strategy is by now obvious. He will do whatever he can to delay a final ruling against him until after next year's municipal elections, by which time he hopes to be Mayor of Marseilles and, as such, free from legal worries.

Censors' iron hand descends again on Russian media



Yeltsin: programme critical of him taken off the air

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

FOUR years after the Kremlin's iron grip over the country's media was lifted, newspapers and television broadcasters in Russia are once again feeling the dead hand of official censorship.

Investigative reporters probing government corruption have been attacked, a television programme critical of President Yeltsin has been taken off the air, and new legislation threatens to clip the wings of Russia's fledgeling fourth estate. In one of the most blatant cases yet of government interference in freedom of the press, the current affairs programme *Top Secret* was cancelled on Saturday night, only hours before it was to broadcast the first of a two-part series on corruption in the military.

"We wanted to reveal how powerful the mafia has become in the military and how even Yeltsin cannot control it, I suppose that was why they banned our programme," said Artyom Borovik, a journalist best known for his coverage of the Afghan war.

The move appeared to be the first warning shot in what broadcasters fear could be a strategy by the Kremlin to dismantle state-owned Russian Television (RTR). The channel, which was established five years ago by pro-democratic forces to help Mr Yeltsin when he was in opposition, is now facing a merger with the main government channel, Ostankino.

"RTR was created as a means to defend democracy," said Anatoli Lysenko, the company's general director. "This merger is totally inconsistent with democracy."

The problems facing broadcasters have been more than matched by their colleagues in the press, where editors face a new and potentially restrictive media law, and where investigative reporters face almost daily harassment and 13 have been murdered in the former Soviet Union this year.

What Russians fear most is that the onslaught is likely to intensify, as campaigning begins for next year's parliamentary elections and the presidential race in 1996.

"The authorities understand that, as elections grow nearer, the media, and in particular television, will have the greatest impact on the electorate. We are simply the first victims of this new strategy," said Mr Borovik.



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Alleged misuse of TV funds investigated

Defiant Berlusconi faces new inquiry

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN NAPLES

SILVIO Berlusconi reiterated his intention to remain in office as Italian Prime Minister yesterday as judicial sources disclosed he has been placed under investigation a second time.

Signor Berlusconi conferred into the early hours yesterday at the Palazzo Chigi in Rome with his closest allies. On Tuesday he was formally placed under investigation by Milan anti-corruption magistrates with regard to cases in which executives from his Fininvest holding company allegedly paid bribes to tax inspectors. Present at the meeting was Gianfranco Fini, the leader of the neo-Fascist National Alliance. But Umberto Bossi, leader of the Northern League partner in the government coalition, did not attend.

Il Messaggero and *La Stampa* newspapers reported that magistrates in Rome have placed Signor Berlusconi on a list of suspects under investigation following a formal complaint that he had allegedly sought to divert advertising revenue away from the state-run broadcasting corporation RAI to his private television channels.

Signor Berlusconi claimed yesterday he intends to renounce control of his three private television stations by floating shares in Fininvest on the stock exchange. It was not clear whether he would find a market for them, however. Political experts said he appeared to be clutching at straws in an effort to survive in spite of having lost credibility.

The Prime Minister also said he would hold a summit meeting of coalition partners this week to see if the government could go on. However, commentators said this was likely to merely formalise his partners' intention for him to remain in office until his austerity budget is passed in parliament. The government today resumes talks with trade union leaders over the budget that were suspended after they broke down September 27. The government wants to head off a one-day general strike that union leaders have called for December 2.

Judicial sources later confirmed that Signor Berlusconi was also under investigation on suspicion of extortion for allegedly abusing his position as Prime Minister.

He returned to Naples yesterday where he presided over the final stages of a three-day United Nations conference on international organised crime. He looked grim and nervous but insisted he would not stand down.

Officials representing 138 nations at the conference, which ended yesterday, approved the "Naples declaration" in which they pledged to crack down on crime and co-operate with other countries.

Time up for leader, page 20



A poster in Oslo reading "The World is big. Say No to EU" appeals to Norwegian voters in the referendum on membership to be held on Sunday and Monday

Norwegian voters divided on brink of EU plebiscite

■ In 1972 Norway voted to stay outside the European Community. At another watershed referendum the country is again wrestling with its aloofness, Anne McElvoy writes

WHEN Sweden voted to join the European Union, two dozen people vented their annoyance by demanding symbolic asylum in Norway. But the Swedish dissidents, and the dog which went with them, have only a few more days of guaranteed safety from Brussels. On Sunday and Monday Norwegian voters face the same choice: whether to enter the European mainstream or remain aloof from the power battles and trade-offs of the EU.

The issue has divided this most consensual of societies into warring camps of "Yes people" and "No people" and there is even a repentant subset of the "From No to Yes People", who voted against entering the European Community in the 1972 referendum but have changed sides.

Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Prime Minister, and other "Yes" supporters, have been sent live bullets in the post, possibly linked to the referendum. A hunting rifle bullet was sent to Mrs Brundtland's office on Tuesday and Inge Loenning, who is running the "Yes" campaign, said she had also received one.

The two sides are neck and neck in opinion polls, with the "No People", led by Anne Enger Lahnstein of the Centre Party, a couple of points ahead. Last weekend the anti-EU group mustered 25,000 protesters, the largest demonstration in Oslo since the country joined Nato in 1949.

The "Yes" supporters are confident that the Swedish vote will persuade Norwegians that a "No" vote would leave them outsiders in the Nordic as well as the European community.

Mrs Brundtland's message is that her country cannot afford to stand outside Europe after the end of the Cold War. She joked this week that four million Norwegians and Icelanders, against the rest of Europe, was "not a very efficient balance of power". "Some people believe that Norway is fine by itself. They don't want change. That is no longer good enough," she said.

The problem for the Prime Minister is that separateness holds a strong appeal for Norwegians. A history of Danish ascendancy in Scandinavia, followed by Swedish rule, late independence in 1905 and Nazi occupation, have produced an antipathy to intergrationist ideas. Even in Oslo, there is vagueness about what the EU is for and confusion about why the referendum is being held. "We're fine as we are," said a workman. "Why did Brussels have to come and bother us by making us vote?"

The European question has dogged Norwegian governments ever since the "No" vote of 1972, which was backed by Mrs Brundtland. "It has been something of a trauma for us," said Professor Hans Vellen, a sociologist. "The '72 referendum split families and still causes ill-feeling. People felt that their identity was under attack."

Four years ago, the Conservative-led coalition government fell because it was unable to resolve a dispute over the closening of ties with Brussels. This time, Mrs Brundtland has said that she intends to continue in power if the *nei* voters win, but she would come under strong pressure to resign.

Opposition to EU membership is strongest in the north, where fishermen and farmers, the most implacable of the Europhobes, hold sway. Although they make up only a small part of the national workforce, these groups have disproportionate influence in a country where geography and late industrialisation mean that even city-dwellers identify strongly with the land



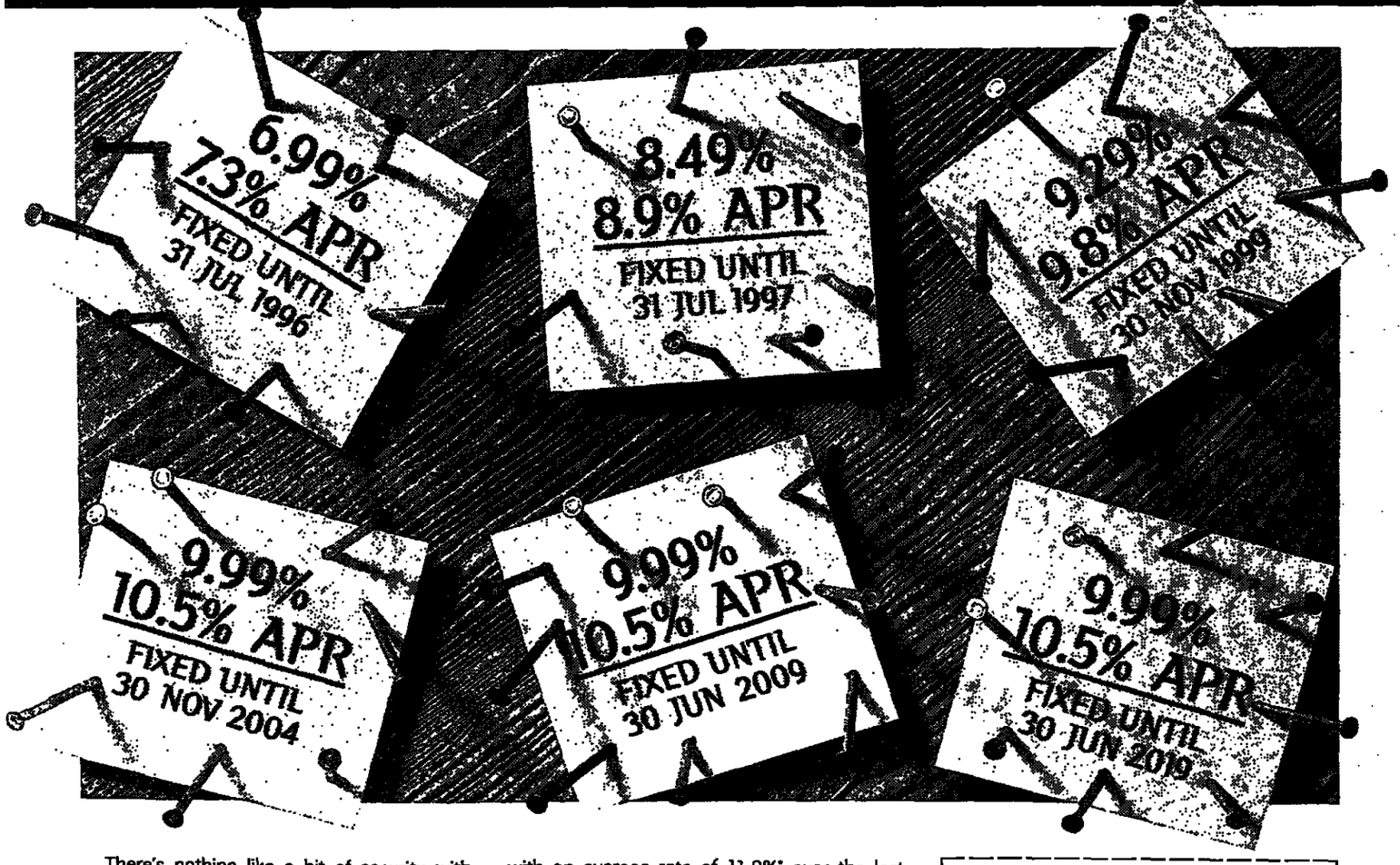
Brundtland: confident of an overall "Yes"

and the subsidising of uneconomic coastal and rural communities.

The women's vote may be decisive, with many fearing that pressure from Brussels will endanger generous social legislation which benefits working mothers.

Mrs Brundtland has called on voters to forget dreams of endless prosperity and the joys of being alone and "vote with your heads, not your hearts". Whether they will respond to her or exhibit the national trait of proud obstinacy, is far from certain.

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Peking says BBC fabricated film of transplants trade

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN PEKING

CHINA accused the BBC yesterday of resorting to sheer fabrication in a documentary which alleged that the organs of executed Chinese prisoners supplied a lucrative transplant trade. The BBC immediately dismissed the criticism.

A lengthy Xinhua dispatch quoted a senior official giving a blow-by-blow Chinese account of a visit by producers Sue Lloyd Roberts and Harry Wu to a hospital in the Sichuan provincial capital, Chengdu. It accused them of using material from the trip to fabricate the film shown on BBC television's *Newsnight* on October 27.

Lloyd Roberts's allegation that she had succeeded in arranging a $30,000 (£20,000) kidney transplant operation at the urological department of Huaxi Medical College's No.1 Hospital for a fictitious relative "was a sheer lie," the official said.

He said the documentary also falsely claimed that footage filmed by Lloyd Roberts during a requested visit to the operating theatre showed an executed criminal's kidney being transplanted. The patient was, in fact, having a mechanical valve replaced, he added. "Facts have shown that the video purporting to show that organs of executed Chinese criminals were transplanted was entirely fabricated by Wu and Roberts using the warm and well-meaning reception of Chinese doctors to achieve their ulterior motives."

Yang Yuru, director of the urological department, had informed the pair that kidneys used in the hospital were donated by the families of traffic accident victims, the official said. "It is detestable and lamentable that they resorted to base means to deceive the world."

The official also reiterated China's condemnation of a BBC documentary shown in May on alleged labour-camp exports. That was shot by Wu and Lloyd Roberts during a visit to the northwestern Xinjiang province. Their methods, the official said, "only serve to expose their dirty ulterior political motives."

The October documentary said many of the kidneys for about 2,000 transplant operations carried out in China each year came from executed criminals without their consent, and that foreign patients paid high prices for the organs.

The Asia Watch human rights organisation has meanwhile alleged that doctors participated in pre-execution tests to match the "donors" and recipients, and that some executions were deliberately botched to ensure victims were still alive when the parts — mainly kidneys and corneas — were removed.

The BBC crew said a doctor at the hospital had demanded cash not a credit card for payment, but the Chinese official insisted Dr Yang had rejected Wu's request to buy a kidney, informing the visitors that this was banned under Chinese law.

Some shots in the film — including those of two male patients and buildings — were not even at the hospital, while claims that the hospital was "crowded with patients from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Europe and the United States seeking organs" were "wantonly fabricated," the official said.

The BBC said in a statement: "We stand by the report and are satisfied that it was well rounded and well researched."

The Times was also singled out for criticism by the official, who accused it of "vicious slander" in an October 26 article saying Chinese criminals were shot to order for transplant operations.

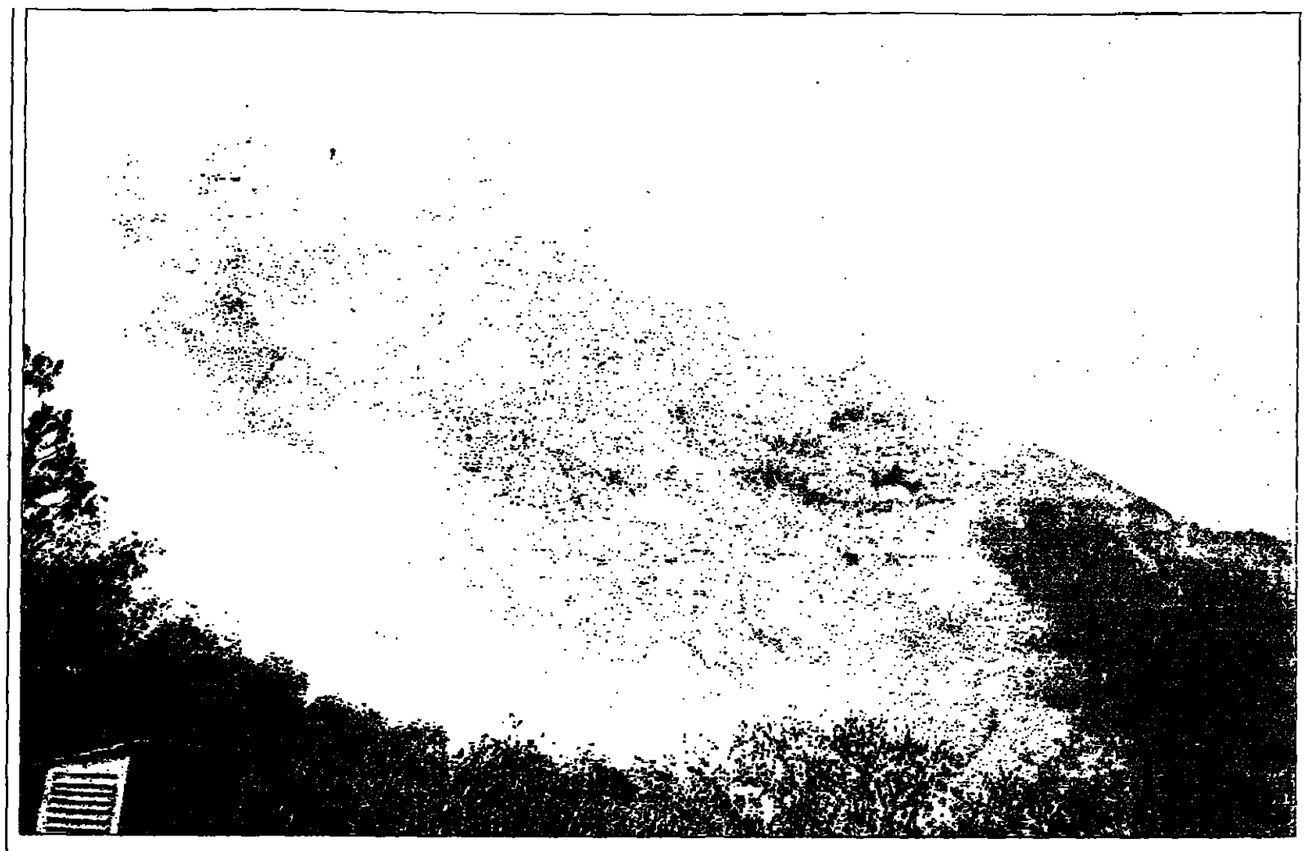
China's utilisation of criminals' organs occurred only in "extremely rare cases" to save someone's life and then only if the voluntary signature of the condemned criminal or the approval of families was obtained, he said.

□ **Illiteracy rate:** More than 30 per cent of China's women are illiterate, with fewer girls going to school than boys because of traditional prejudices, the *Guangming Daily* said yesterday.

The number of girls going to school is lower than boys, with 2.1 million girls absent from school in 1992 — or two-thirds of all child absentees — the newspaper said. *(Reuter)*



Hong Kong: Wu Yi, the Chinese Foreign Trade Minister, said yesterday that all trade agreements China had made in the last eight years in order to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) would be invalid if America continued to delay Peking's entry to the deal (Jonathan Mirsky writes). The warning came days after Li Peng, the Prime Minister, above, said that "if the US was not placing restraints, China would be able to join Gatt now". Mickey Kantor, the American trade representative, told President Jiang Zemin last week that there was little hope for China's early entry to Gatt.



Victims of Java volcano given mass burial

Pakem, Indonesia: Grieving families yesterday buried victims of a volcanic eruption on Indonesia's Java island which killed at least 31 people and trapped dozens more with a lethal mix of gases, lava and debris. The bodies of 15 people including two children, victims of the eruption on Tuesday were given a mass burial at a Muslim cemetery, where a huge grave lay open for more victims expected from the volcano. Friends and relatives prayed as the bodies, wrapped in white shrouds, were lowered into the grave. "We expect more bodies," said an elderly man as he stood near the open grave in this village in the foothills of Merapi, or Fiery Mountain. More than 5,000 people were rescued from villages near the volcano, which experts said could erupt again at any time. Many of those killed or badly injured were burnt by searing steam, including guests at a wedding party. *(Reuter)*

Paris fetes literary fugitive

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

TASLIMA Nasreen, the Bangladeshi writer whose life is under threat for allegedly insulting the Koran, was fêted by the Paris literary world when she arrived here yesterday on a visit that is being given the same police protection as a trip by a head of state.

Dignitaries from the publishing world greeted her when she landed from Sweden, where she fled in August. She was to appear last night on the flagship current affairs programme of the state-run France 2 network, with Mario Vargas Llosa, Patricia Highsmith, William Boyd and other writers.

Hundreds of Muslim protesters marched yesterday in Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital, demanding that Ms Nasrin be returned to face trial next month.

"The devil will be caught and punished," said Shafiul Alam Pradhan, leader of the Jatiya Ganotantrik Party, a member of the country's Islamic council.

Israel split over settlers' Gaza redoubt

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN GAZA CITY

AS mediation to avert a Palestinian civil war in Gaza continued, a clash loomed between left-wing and right-wing Israelis about Netzarim, a settlement of 31 Jewish families in Arab territory two miles south of Gaza City.

Political pressure to remove the enclave, where four Israeli soldiers have been killed over the past fortnight, was increased when Shimon Peres, the Labour Foreign Minister, told a Knesset committee: "Netzarim is a thorn which should be torn out."

Mr Peres, one of the architects of the peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was quoted this week as saying that since the pact was signed 14 months ago it had cost 24 million shekels (£5.2 million) to fortify Netzarim, "which has no economic or security value".

The right-wing Council of Jewish Settlers responded by calling for "active resistance" to any attempt to uproot Netzarim, which has been transformed into a symbol for those wanting all settlements to remain. Yesterday council members said they would take it in turns to live in Netzarim, and urged right-wing politicians and rabbis to join them.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, has refused to contemplate dismantling any of the 20 settlements in Gaza and the 124 in the West Bank in the five-year interim period of Palestinian autonomy, but at a Cabinet session this week four ministers called for Netzarim to be moved.

One settler, Bracha Nissan, said: "This is not just a war over Netzarim. I believe this is my place. It is the biblical land of Israel, the same way as Tel Aviv is."

Palestinians see the enclave as a constant provocation and reminder that the peace treaty achieved little compromise from Israel on settlement issues.

Hundreds of Israeli troops have been sent to Gaza this week to protect the settlements which house 4,000 Jews amid 850,000 Arabs.

Hamas calls big rally

Jerusalem: The violent struggle between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Islamic extremists opposing its peace pact with Israel is likely to worsen tomorrow when Hamas (the Islamic Resistance Movement) plans to hold a rally in Gaza (Christopher Walker writes). The march, in memory of an activist killed a year ago by an undercover Israeli unit, will take place a week after the area came close to civil war when PLO policemen shot dead 13 Islamic protesters and wounded 200. Israeli and Arab sources yesterday said they feared the march could plunge Gaza into anarchy.

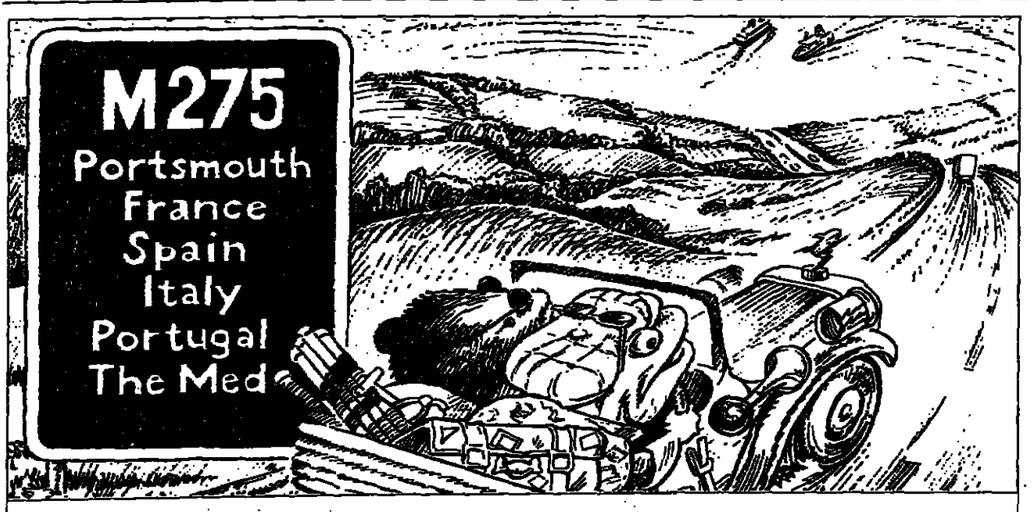
Japanese germ war site identified

FROM REUTER IN PEKING

CHINA has identified another Japanese army germ laboratory where thousands of Chinese were killed in bacteriological experiments during the Second World War, the *China Daily* newspaper reported.

"The finding will help unmask the intentionally covered facts of that period of history," the newspaper quoted Sha Dongxun, a historian with the Canton Academy of Social Sciences, as saying. Mr Sha identified the laboratory in southern Canton province after an investigation which began early this year when he was assigned to find material for a book on Japan's germ warfare during its occupation of China, the newspaper said.

Mr Sha said the laboratory was founded in 1939 by Japan's fourth germ warfare unit in China at the former medical college of Zhongshan University in the provincial capital, Canton. It planted various fatal infectious diseases in refugees from Hong Kong and surrounding Canton to study the effects, which included killing between 3,000 and 20,000 people, Mr Sha was quoted as saying.



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Bosnian Serb attacks designed to deepen differences between United Nations and alliance

Airstrikes expose limits of West's military options

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE rush of action by Nato fighter aircraft over Bosnia-Herzegovina this week has highlighted the huge firepower available just across the Adriatic, but has also underlined the severe limits imposed on what is boasted to be the most successful military organisation in history.

Ever since Nato was brought in to enforce the air exclusion zone over Bosnia, about 150 aircraft have been taking off from dozens of bases in Italy and on carriers in the Adriatic, mounting daily patrols, armed for action.

After the largest air raid ever carried out by the alliance on Monday, involving nearly 50 fighter and support aircraft, the targeting of the Sea Harriers on Tuesday and yesterday's double action on Sam missile sites, Nato fighter crews have seen almost more action in three days than in the 19 months since Operation Deny Flight began in April last year.

Nato sources admitted yesterday that in their role of "supporting" Unprofor, the crews of the 150 alliance aircraft had had to face a "frustrating" time, unable to mount any more than the most limited raids.

The pilots are under strict orders to avoid "collateral damage", the euphemistic

NATO

phrase that became so familiar during the Gulf War when heavy bombing of Iraqi targets led to civilian casualties and the destruction of some residential buildings.

The perceived differences between Nato and Unprofor over bombing policy were highlighted yesterday by General Lewis Mackenzie, the former Unprofor commander in Bosnia. Speaking on BBC Radio's *Today* programme, the Canadian general said it was time Nato recognised that it was only in a supporting role to Unprofor and not in competition with them. He said the survival of the UN humanitarian mission in Bosnia depended on its impartiality. This was not helped by the United States, which appeared to have taken sides in urging tougher action against the Serbs, he said.

Like those who succeeded him as Unprofor commander, including the incumbent, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, he was aware of the clever game played by the Bosnian Serbs, who have developed a sophisticated form of Balkan gamesmanship.

The Serbs have reason to be wary of the huge firepower just a short flight away, yet they have succeeded in cocking a snook at Nato, because they know better than anyone that the alliance is not its own master. Nato can only act when authorised to do so by Unprofor commanders, and in particular by Yasushi Akashi, the UN envoy to the former Yugoslavia.

This week has been different because the Serb air attacks on Bihac, a designated UN "safe area", and the use of napalm and cluster bombs hit a nerve in both Nato and Unprofor camps which led to a demand for retaliation.

General Mackenzie said the Serbs seemed to have only one strategy in attacking Bihac: to cause more trouble between Unprofor and Nato. Nato aircrews have been able this week to put into practice bombing operations for which they have been rehearsing for decades. But none of the raids has dealt a deadly blow to the Serbs.



A British Jaguar fighter plane returns to the Nato base at Gioia Del Colle in Italy after a mission against Bosnian Serb positions



US seeks allied backing for more attacks

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AMERICA entered renewed consultations with its Nato allies yesterday in an attempt to avert the fall of Bihac and avoid a further spiral of conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina as allied warplanes launched further strikes against Serb missile sites.

"We are contacting our colleagues in Nato about further action that might be taken in the Bihac pocket," said Warren Christopher, US Secretary of State. "It is a serious situation."

The Clinton Administration is proposing stronger military action and expanded use of airpower to protect the pocket from the Serb onslaught.

Steps which have been suggested include bombing ethnic Serb forces in Bosnia and Croatia, and the possibility of allowing Nato planes to chase Serb jets into Croatia, and to shoot them down if they violate the "no fly zone" over Bosnia.

Allied aircraft would also be able to launch pre-emptive attacks against Serb anti-aircraft defences that threaten any Nato planes. The State Department is still pushing for the

US/RUSSIA

establishment of a weapons exclusion zone around Bihac, similar to that around Sarajevo, which extends six miles from the city.

The aim of the United States plan, which effectively seeks a more robust approach than Nato, is to stop the advance of Serb soldiers and to discourage Croatia from entering the war. Washington wants its allies to agree in advance on the "triggers" that would prompt retaliatory action from Nato.

Considerable obstacles continue to undermine a unified US policy towards Bosnia. Republicans on Capitol Hill are making increasingly strenuous calls for more stringent action but their wish for a unilateral lifting of the arms embargo against the Muslim-led Bosnian government has provoked rifts in the alliance.

Willy Claes, Secretary-General of Nato, warned Republicans this week that they would draw America into the conflict if United Nations soldiers were forced to retreat by the lifting of any embargo.

The Clinton Administration finds itself caught in the middle, attempting to appease both sides with a policy which is not determined by those in Nato or Washington, but by Serb gunmen.

Meanwhile, Russia yesterday reacted with surprise and alarm to Nato's fresh airstrikes against Serb positions in Bosnia, and issued a warning that the escalation would lead to further bloodshed.

In a tough statement released by the Foreign Ministry, Moscow made it clear that Nato's increasing role in the conflict was putting a serious strain on the fragile consensus between Russia and the West.

"We are seriously worried about the alarming new information from Bosnia," said Grigori Karasin, the Foreign Ministry spokesman. "The dangers of a chain reaction of strong-arm tactics are already obvious."



Helms risks losing top job with new attack on Clinton

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

JESSE Helms, the outspoken Republican, was fast becoming a liability to his party after another outburst against President Clinton brought mounting speculation about his future role.

Just days after saying Mr Clinton was not fit to be Commander-in-Chief, Mr Helms had told a North Carolina newspaper that the President would be unwise to visit military bases in the state. "Mr Clinton better watch out if he comes down here. He'd better have a bodyguard."

Yesterday the Secret Service said the allegation had been investigated and it had been determined that there was no threat to the President.

Although he later claimed it was an offhand remark and admitted he had made a mistake, Mr Helms continued to attack the White House. "The President has serious problems with his record of draft avoidance, with his stand on homosexuals in the military, and declining defence capability of America's armed forces," he said.

It was the third time in the two weeks since Republicans won control of Congress that Mr Helms had stirred controversy with his inflammatory comments and had embarrassed his colleagues, the more moderate of whom increasingly view him as a threat to their chances of success in government.

Mr Clinton, who said the outburst was unwise and inappropriate, seized the opportunity to highlight Republican extremism in the new battle for the political centre. "The President oversees the foreign policy of the United States and the Republicans will decide in whom they will repose their trust and confidence," he said. "That is a decision for them."

Paul Begala, a White House adviser, said: "If the Republican leadership does not slap [Mr Helms] down, the American people will conclude that the Republican leadership is gutless in the face of the radical Right."

His incendiary words conflict with the conciliatory message that more moderate Republicans are trying to send, and both Robert Dole, the incoming majority Senate leader, and Newt Gingrich, soon to be Speaker of the House of Representatives, have distanced themselves from Mr Helms's remarks.

Pressure was mounting yesterday for Mr Dole to block Mr Helms's appointment to the foreign relations committee and speculation centred around Richard Lugar, who is highly respected and his obvious challenger. Rich Bond, the former chairman of the Republican National Committee, said the remark could cost Mr Helms the post.

The New York Times, describing Mr Helms as "a global liability for the nation", called for the Republicans to appoint a new chairman-elect to so important a committee.

'Friendly fire' aircrew go free

MILITARY judges have recommended that only one of six US air force officers blamed by the Pentagon for shooting down two American helicopters over northern Iraq last April should be court-martialled (writes Martin Fletcher in Washington).

The incident, one of the worst cases of "friendly fire" in US history, killed 26 members of a multinational field operation, including two British officers. The ruling enraged relatives of the 15 Americans who died.

Revenge of jilted beauty queen



Tracy Lippard awaits the verdict as jurors file back into court in Lewisburg. She could escape with probation and a fine.

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

AMERICA has been enthralled this week by the tale of Tracy Lippard, which might have been made for television, and surely will be.

One lawyer called it the case of the "psycho Barbie Doll" — a former beauty queen driven to jealous violence; a Don Juan caught between three lovers; and a former Secret Service agent who disarmed the woman, despite being hit on the head with a hammer twice.

The story has an almost happy ending. Miss Lippard, 23, a demure dentist's daughter, was charged with ten crimes, including attempted murder, after she allegedly drove to the home of her pregnant romantic rival, Melissa Weikle, armed with a pistol, hammer, butcher's knife and lighter fluid. On Tuesday a jury deliberated for nine hours before convicting her on lesser charges of attempted second-degree murder, apparently believing her actions were "more impulsive than deliberate"

Miss Lippard's sentence, to be imposed on January 4, may be no more than probation and a fine, although she could face up to 6½ years in prison. Miss Lippard and Ms Weikle had been involved with the same man, 26-year-old Todd Scott, described in court as a "serial monogamist".

Mr Scott was engaged to a third woman in North Carolina. Ms Weikle was eight months pregnant by him. Miss Lippard was extremely angry, partly because on the day of the incident Mr Scott failed to attend a pageant where the former Miss Williamsburg had crowned her successor and dedicated a song to him. "Any woman who has been two-timed, or three-timed, or whatever knows the feeling," she testified.

On February 26, after the pageant in Williamsburg, she loaded her car with instruments of destruction and headed to the Weikle home in Lewisburg, West Virginia, about 250 miles away. Rodney Weikle, Melissa's father and a former Secret Service agent, testified that he let his daughter's rival into the house and was whacked twice on the head with a hammer. But he has apparently suffered no long-term injuries. Mr Scott, it seems, has changed his ways. In August he married Ms Weikle and they are having a second child in May.

NEWS IN BRIEF

111 killed in Indian protest

Nagpur: At least 111 people, mostly women and children, died yesterday in a stampede after a police baton charge on tribal protesters in this western Indian city. About 500 people were injured.

A large delegation from about 40,000 protesters had tried to break through police barricades to go to the Maharashtra state assembly before officers charged with iron-tipped bamboo batons. Some people at the front tried to move back and set off a stampede. *(Reuter)*

Peace backed

São Tomé: Jonas Savimbi, the Unita rebel leader, has backed the Angolan peace deal and agreed to meet President dos Santos to cement the accord. It was his first statement on the pact. *(Reuter)*

Prince mugged

The Hague: Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands, Queen Beatrix's 24-year-old nephew, was robbed at knifepoint of his gold watch, wallet and cash while in New York for the annual marathon. *(Reuter)*

Father jailed

Corinth: A man has been jailed for life after raping and strangling his son in southern Greece. Manolis Douris confessed after first claiming that Nikos, seven, had been attacked by a stranger. *(AP)*

FBI agents killed at police HQ

BY TOM RHODES

SECURITY at the police headquarters in Washington DC was under scrutiny yesterday after a gunman walked into the building wielding a compact assault weapon and sprayed a homicide task force office, killing two FBI agents and a police detective before he was shot dead.

The black gunman, identified as Benny Lee Lawson, 25, had taken a lift to the building's third floor on Tuesday afternoon and then entered the squad room and opened fire with the Tec-9 semi-automatic weapon.

An agent and a 15-year-old youth were wounded in the attack, while another civilian managed to escape any injury. The dead detective, Hank Daly, 51, had been a police officer for 28 years and was the supervisor of what was known as the "Cold Case Squad", a unit formed to investigate unsolved murders. The two dead FBI agents were named as Martha Martinez, 35, and Michael Miller, 41.

Although used to daily reports of killings in mainly black neighbourhoods of the city, Washington has been paralysed by the extraordinary lapse of security from those supposed to protect the capital, the equivalent of one man ambling into Scotland Yard and shooting dead three senior detectives.

The latest incident, which occurred less than a mile from the White House, comes only weeks after a gunman peppered the presidential mansion with bullets and two months after a lorry driver crashed his small aircraft into the South Lawn.

Security at the municipal building in Indiana Avenue pales beside that at police stations in other American cities. "There was nothing to prevent this from occurring at the Municipal Centre," said William Ritchie, former chief of the criminal investigations division. "It was just a matter of time before someone would try to go into the workplace of a police officer and try to shoot him."

It appeared that Mr Lawson had been questioned by homicide detectives only weeks before. It was suggested he had been connected with a triple murder in Washington. In 1990 he had been arrested on weapons charges and was sentenced to more than three years in prison.

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Zaire envoy unpaid and homeless

FROM PAT KOZA IN WARSAW

ZAIRE's most senior diplomat in Poland has been living homeless in Warsaw because his government has not paid him for almost two years.

The plight of Emany Mata Likambe, the Zairean chargé d'affaires, was discovered several days ago when he was attacked at Warsaw railway station, where he had been staying with the homeless.

Jan Karczewski, a Foreign Ministry official, said the government became aware of Mr Likambe's financial problems last year when the Zairean Embassy stopped paying his rent. Later he had to sell his car and other belongings, and finally was evicted from his flat.

Attempts by Poland to interest Kinshasa in the plight of its envoy have been unsuccessful. "We hear that the other embassies of Zaire are having similar problems," Mr Karczewski said.

Other Polish officials said that Warsaw cannot offer much in the way of financial assistance because the diplomat has not asked for asylum or for refugee status. "We cannot finance embassies or foreign diplomats in Poland, but for humanitarian reasons we could not let the Zairean envoy go on sleeping at the station, forgotten by his government," one senior official said. "He now has a modest appartment and we have invited him to all official receptions to help him to eat."

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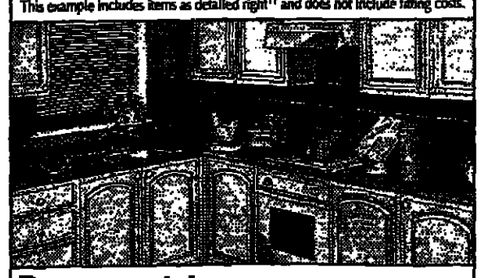
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Washington's oversize army of assistants is being routed, says **Martin Fletcher**

Democrat gravy train derailed

If you want to wallow in melancholia, to feel it descend upon you like a thick, brown smog and penetrate deep into your being, come, visit the Capitol Hill office of Frank McCloskey, a Democratic congressman from Indiana for the past 12 years who was swept from power by the Republican tidal wave of November 8.

Before that apocalyptic day this comfortable third-floor suite was the buzzing, high-voltage centre of its own little universe. From here Mr McCloskey masterminded the congressional drive to arm Bosnia's Muslims, fought to promote Irish interests in America and battled to advance a promising political career.

On this particular afternoon it is dark and wet outside, but infinitely gloomier within. For the first time in memory, the phones have fallen silent. Cardboard packing cases line the walls. Mr McCloskey is absent, but a few aides are forlornly sifting through piles of old files or anxiously tapping out resumés on their screens. The remains of a birthday cake on a coffee table seem incongruous amid such general wretchedness, as do the photographs of Mr McCloskey and President Clinton laughing together before the great débâcle.

"My job was the focus of my life," laments Melissa Merz, Mr McCloskey's 26-year-old press secretary, who is appropriately dressed in funereal black, "and now its been totally ripped out from underneath me. I have nothing to focus on any more. I don't think I'll ever let myself be so close to a job again."

Democratic congressmen have lost elections before, of course, but their aides almost always survived. After an indecently brief period of mourning, they would simply move down the corridor to work for another Democrat, join the staff of some congressional committee or exploit their Democratic connections by becoming well-paid lobbyists. There was always that "cushion", says Ms Merz.

This time it is different, utterly different, and not just because there are hardly any new Democratic congressmen to take on the newly bossless.

For the first time since 1954, the party has lost control of Congress, and the Republicans are gleefully dismantling the vast system of support and patronage that the Democrats had so assiduously constructed over four decades. Capitol Hill is being swept by revolution. The established order is being overthrown. Thousands of Democratic "Hill rats" are being curtly ejected — without severance pay — from jobs they had grown to believe were theirs for life, and they have nowhere else to go.

"The Democrats are absolutely shell-shocked," says Sherry Ruffing, the 29-year-old legislative director of a defeated Kansas congressman named Dan Glickman. "Nobody ever dreamt we would lose the House." Two days before the election, she was showing off her weeks-old baby to friends at a Sunday brunch and assuring them that Mr Glickman, chairman of the House Intelligence committee, was safe as houses.

TRACEY ATTLEE



Melissa Merz, Frank McCloskey's press secretary: lost focus

As it is, Ms Merz and Mrs Ruffing will be two of an estimated 1,300 aides to defeated or retiring congressmen who will receive their final pay cheques just after Christmas. The Republicans intend to dismiss another 1,500 Democrats who service the bloated House committees. These had become the personal fiefdoms of their powerful Democratic chairmen and some have staffs more than 100-strong.

After that, the Republicans will set to work on the vast administrative bureaucracy that the Democrats built up and used to reward supporters. The Capitol Hill payroll has tripled to more than 30,000 over the past 20 years. To cite but a few examples of brazen waste, it has a police force of 1,200, 72 doorkeepers, 100 parking attendants and 22 operators of fully automated lifts for members.

Wander the corridors of Capitol Hill and you encounter a few cocky young Republicans scouting like vultures for the best new offices, but mostly bewildered, hollow-eyed Democratic aides still struggling to comprehend the enormity of what has befallen them. They cry. They hug. They commiserate. They swap horror stories of colleagues who have just taken out huge mortgages, or were about to marry, or are HIV-positive and will lose their health insurance.

Scores of staffers earned salaries of more than $100,000, and there are countless cases of both husbands and wives losing their jobs. And most of these political junkies are now virtually unemployable in Washington.

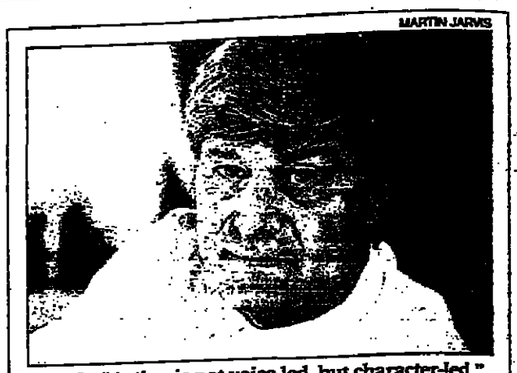
They are no use to Washington's ubiquitous lobbyists, who were themselves caught out by the election results and are frantically seeking to recruit Republicans. Obscure 1940 legislation gives experienced congressional staffers the inside track for jobs in federal agencies, but there simply are no vacancies in a shrinking government.

Those seeking to switch sides and to work for the incoming Republicans are having to fill out a questionnaire designed to weed out the ideologically impure. This asks applicants to give their views on 18 controversial issues, including abortion, homosexuals in the military, school prayer, the death penalty and mandatory union membership. "It's frightening," says Ms Merz. "It's like McCarthyism."

Of the 40 aides employed by Mr McCloskey and Mr Glickman, only one has found another job, and he had lined that up before the election. "I don't know what I'm going to do," says Ms Merz, who will lose a $42,000 annual salary but is in the relatively fortunate position of being at least young, single and mortgage-free. "It's a bit scary. I've never been without a job before."

It is harder to feel sorry for the congressmen. Most will find slots elsewhere and they have, needless to say, a pension system much more generous than those of most Americans. Dan Rostenkowski, the veteran Chicago congressman who is facing multiple charges of fraud and embezzlement, will collect $96,462 a year for the rest of his life. Tom Foley, the first House Speaker to lose his seat since 1860, will get $123,804.

MARTIN JARVIS



Jarvis: "Acting is not voice-led, but character-led."

William? No, just Jarvis

Valerie Grove meets the voice of Richmal Crompton's antihero

IT IS no good. I went to see Martin Jarvis in the dressing-room at the Playhouse Theatre and we tried to have an adult conversation about the craft of acting and the vital *importance of* Shakespeare etc, but the insistent voice of William kept breaking in. "Seems *'straordinary* to me . . . '"

Jarvis may protest that his radio work forms only a minuscule part of his astonishingly diverse theatrical and film output but the ubiquitous 11-year-old boy — and Ginger and Ethel and Violet Elizabeth Bott and all the other characters he so immaculately portrays — keep butting in. And no matter how faithfully they try to do *Just William* on screen, it is Jarvis's voice that captures most faithfully the wit and irony of Richmal Crompton's prose. His third William tape (there are now four) made the charts — "I was rather hoping to be invited on *Top of the Pops* to mime to my own voice".

Jarvis lives in a smart stuccoed terrace in Chelsea with a Bentley outside the door, but he grew up at 11 Sunset Gardens, South Norwood. "South Norwood was my idea of where William lived," he says. A semi-detached suburban childhood with mother, father, sister, Angela, and visits to the Essoldo cinema (which Jarvis thought was the Effoldo) with gran — had much to recommend it.

> 'I took Latin O level three times and still failed'

Many sacrifices were made to send him to Whitgift School, Croydon, where, tortured with shyness, his ear caught a nice appreciation of the subtleties of class and voice. "When we were asked about our summer holidays their voices piped up about villas in Tuscany and Provence," he says, "while mine had to confess we went to stay with Auntie Joan at Blackpool."

He did something very William-ish when Latin loomed at school. He pretended to have mumps so convincingly he had two weeks off school . . . then really did get mumps and was away another three weeks. "I took Latin O level three times and still failed."

There was a time when his voice and his livelihood was threatened by a series of horrible operations on tumours that grew like balloons in the tubes of his nose. He was 29 and had just been playing Uriah Heep. "Finally a tiny surgeon who said he understood the ghastliness of losing one's speech managed to cut out these tumours — and the curious bonus was that afterwards my voice had an extra input, extra range."

The range is remarkably versatile. When he did the *Jarvis's Frayn* series on Radio 4 (bringing to life Michael Frayn's brilliant sketches) listeners could not believe that all 99 voices — Pythagoras, Mrs Pythagoras, the wailing child wanting its bottom wiped, the actor out-Gielguding Gielgud and the one sounding like Olivier's Richard III — were Jarvis.

It is his mouth you have to watch. When he was Uriah Heep his mouth widened into a fixed rictus (echoed by the voice of horrible Hubert Lane in *William*) and when he is William his mouth contracts into a dog's bottom, which gives it just the right truculent tone, so that a single "Huh!" encapsulates all William's arrogance and indignation. He sees Richmal Crompton in the tradition of Dickens, and not a million miles from P.G. Wodehouse.

"My first design," he says, "is always to serve the writer and reflect her wit. There's no point, unless you can get under the skin of her characters." So he manages to endow all the Outlaws with different personalities — Ginger as Horatio to William's Hamlet, Douglas a bit slower and possibly slightly northern, Henry the boffin, who knows a bit of history.

The real Martin Jarvis is immensely amiable, yet he plays frightful people. You can see him now at the Playhouse in Freddie Lonsdale's *On Approval* as the preposterously self-centred Duke of Bristol. In Ayckbourn's *Woman in Mind* he made a chillingly unspeakable vicar who drove his wife mad. Recently he was the villain who knocked Tinker off his bike in *Lovejoy*, and now you can hear him as the ambitious politician Foxwell Cravat in *Gush*, a hilarious parody of a Jeffrey Archer serial written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, already becoming Radio 4's latest cult series.

In one short hour before going on stage, he becomes Frayn when talking of Frayn, Ayckbourn when talking of Ayckbourn and Pinter when talking of Pinter. He is by turn Ian McKellen, the late Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies doing Miss Havisham, and Betty the Playhouse doorkeeper.

BUT acting is not impressionism, as he points out. He says the best impressionist he knows is Sir Anthony Hopkins . . . "But impressions are only a party trick. *Acting is not voice-led, but character-led.*"

He is a master of the voiceover: that afternoon he had been recording for the Concrete Society — "Well, why not?" — and also doing the voice-over for *The Natural World* about a year in the life of the kookaburra. On my way home I turned on the radio and could swear I heard him urging me to buy Kleenex and growth bonds. Just two more of his 100 voices. Or was it him, after all?

The Army gets itself into a fine mess

Henry Stanhope follows the long march from the cookhouse door to haute cuisine

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY



A flavour of the Raj: officers, like these in a mess tent at Mysore, have traditionally dined well. Now the other ranks are joining in, too

The Army's most glittering campaign since 1945 has been won not in the Cold War but on the hotplate. Not even the British Rail sandwich has perked up quite as much as cookhouse food.

Its officers have always dined in style, even during the austere 1950s. Silver gleamed on the candle-lit table of the mess as the scarlet mess-jacketed colonel and his guests tucked into roast saddle of hare or lobster soufflé.

On the exercise ranges of West Germany, choice pieces of silver from the barracks adorned the mess tent as they toasted the Queen with chilled mosel beneath the stars.

And had the Soviets really wanted to invade, they could have done worse than choose Sunday afternoon, when the flower of English chivalry was immobilised, dozing off a protracted curry lunch.

Down the road in the cookhouse, however, things were different. Servicemen with shorn heads and torn denims filed past a line of fierce cooks, bearing tin trays.

The trays bore a number of shallow indentations like the plastic platters on which airlines serve plastic food. But while airlines site one course in each cavity, the cooks used to empty them all into the same one. The range and bearing of a well-trained lance-corporal were unerring.

The result was an interesting selection of Irish stew, topped with raspberry blancmange, boiled cabbage, bread, butter and jam — or, if it was teatime, a slice of "cake, slab fruit". It was wholesome, but not like mother's, and a high wastage bill was matched by low morale.

The first advance came out of an experiment at Woolwich, where in 1958 they "reversed the spoon". Instead of cooks ladling food on to tin trays, they let the hapless conscripts help themselves.

Not only did this dramatically cut wastage but it changed the whole psychology of mealtimes. The captive client had been turned into a customer whose likes and dislikes were daily demonstrated. Within three years "self-service" was Army policy.

Then, in 1963, National Service ended. The Army had suddenly to tempt more volunteers — and from a society which was undergoing rapid change. Young men had "never had it so good" and their tastebuds were being ripened and matured by package holidays abroad.

Meanwhile, the newly professionalised Army Catering Corps (ACC) was attracting a fresh generation of recruits: teenagers who genuinely wanted to be cooks and officers with ambitions in catering management.

A decade later, the Army switched over to "cash messing". Hitherto units had been supplied with food in bulk — great sacks of potatoes, lentils, rice and flour — and the Army was said to have the biggest store of unused lentils in the country. But since 1976, food allowances have been in hard cash. Master chefs have been able to shop for what they need.

French casseroles have taken over from Irish stew, while fresh fillets of plaice have replaced battered cod. Chocolate gâteau has pushed out rock cakes on the tea table and Bourbon fingers have ousted "biscuits, standard plain".

The "cookhouse" has been rechristened the "soldiers' mess", while "chefs" in tall white hats now man the hotplates — proffering a choice of seven or eight different dishes.

Meanwhile, those in the officer's mess with their *timbale de saumon fumé au mousse de crabe* and quails' eggs Monte Carlo look up to no one.

Chefs have sometimes been accused of trying too hard, of going over the top with simple dishes. They have turned the icing of cakes into an art form, with models of Guildford cathedral and vases of flowers with each petal delicately sculpted.

Recent changes have given rise to some misgivings. The ACC has been rationalised out of existence, its chefs absorbed by the new Royal Logistic Corps. Some messes have been put out to contract catering.

Army chefs have prided themselves on being soldiers first and cooks second. They have repeatedly excelled at Bisley and on endurance competition, out-shooting and outmarching many smarter and supposedly tougher regiments. The Army says that it still has enough of them, especially now that its fighting strength has slimmed down. And if war broke out it could call on its reserves.

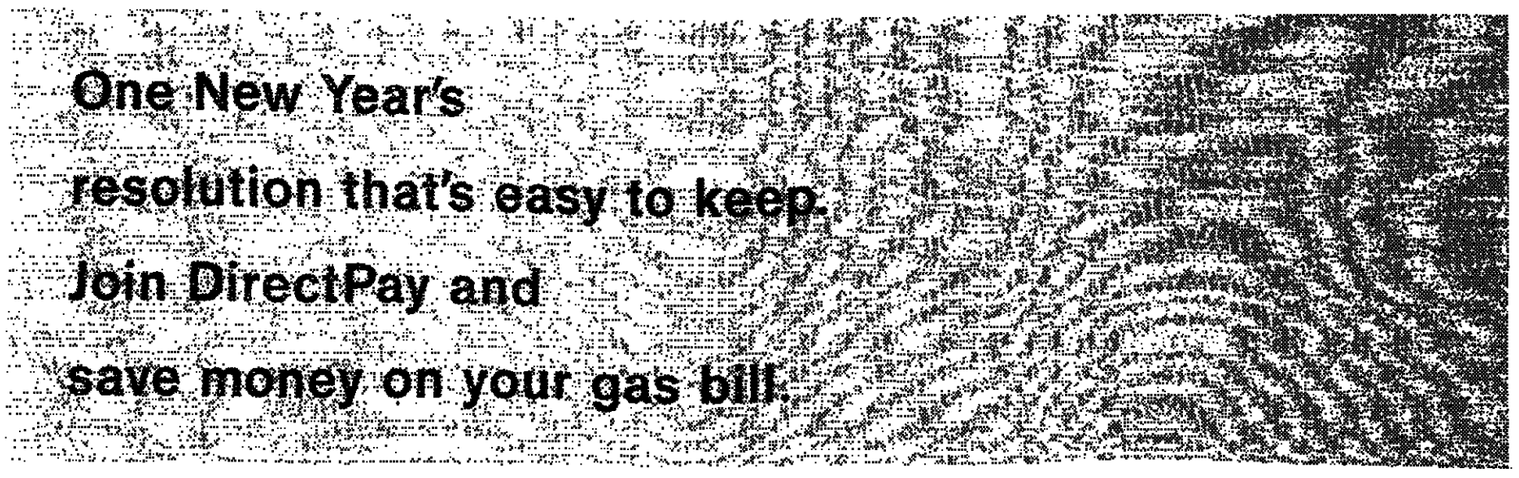
But some fear the changes are the thin end of a wedge, and mourn the passing of the ACC. Formed half-a-century ago during the war, it replaced the haphazard system which preceded it and finally managed to achieve a peak of excellence. Why change a successful recipe, critics ask.

No one doubts that the feeding of troops deserves high priority. Men collapsed under their packs in the Crimean War after living on nothing but biscuits. One regiment had no food on Christmas Day and when its colonel rustled up some fresh meat, he found that they had no fuel.

Sixty years on, at Gallipoli, the Army's answer to such problems was to send out shiploads of bully beef — which melted in the heat.

It used to be said that soldiers fought best when lean and hungry. But as they usually were, this was hard to prove, and nobody wishes to try out the theory again.

● *Henry Stanhope is co-author with Tank Nash of the cookery book* The Colonel's Table, *Brassey's (£25).*



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Antimony poisoning and cot deaths...investigating the causes of blindness...the dangers of chicken-pox, but not for fit cricketers

Mattresses and Maud



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

AN ASSOCIATION between Oliver, my three-month-old grandson, and Maud Marsh, the mistress of a notorious Victorian multi-murderer named Chapman, might seem unlikely, but they are linked by the possibility that both could have been victims of antimony poisoning.

Maud was, but Oliver avoided any risk — for his cot mattress was made of coconut fibre.

Last week the television programme *The Cook Report* suggested that young babies sleeping on mattresses treated with a fire retardant containing an antimony salt could, if the salt was broken down by damp, urine or fungi, slowly inhale antimony, which has the ability to accumulate in the body's tissues.

The report proposed that this could be one of the causes of the sudden infant death syndrome, more often called cot death.

One of the well-recorded effects of antimony poisoning is indeed sudden death. *Martindales' Pharmacopoeia* stresses that even when antimony is correctly prescribed, it invariably causes ECG (heart tracing) changes. In overdosage, the cardiac arrhythmia can be so serious that sudden death can occur at any time.

In the past, antimony was prescribed as tartar emetic (antimony potassium tartrate) or in veterinary work as butter of antimony. Its use was discontinued in British practice 70 years ago, but until recently it was prescribed to treat two common tropical infections, bilharzia and cutaneous leishmaniasis.

As well as causing liver damage and sudden heart failure, side effects of antimony include chest pain, coughing, breathlessness and gastroenteritis.

It is therefore not surprising that poor Maud Marsh was admitted to Guy's Hospital with abdominal pain, weight loss and vomiting, where her physicians thought, erroneously, that she had peritonitis. Chapman's first wife had been very chesty, and she was diagnosed as having died of pulmonary TB. When his second wife died, following abdominal troubles, her death was attributed to intestinal obstruction.

Antimony has not always been regarded with suspicion; Theo Bonett wrote in his textbook of medicine, published in 1684: "He that uses a sweet and red oyl of Antimony needs no other Medicine for the Cure of the Stomach," which was hardly the experience of Mr Chapman's women.

Maud Marsh died, the Chapman wives were exhumed and Chapman was hanged.

Oliver, on the other hand, remains healthy and jolly: not only because his mattress does not contain antimony — for at the worst this would only be one cause of sudden infant death syndrome — but also, in part, because he sleeps on his back, his room temperature is well controlled, his house is not damp, his parents do not smoke and he spends most of his time with them.

Whatever the outcome of the antimony controversy, these precautions are essential if the death rate from cot death is to continue to fall.

● *Coconut fibre Golden Slumber mattresses manufactured by Rockingham's Baby Craft, which are naturally fire retardant, are stocked by Peter Jones, Sloane Square, London SW1.*

Sight lines



IT IS a pity that the highly civilised Ronnie Chapman, writer, Bodleian librarian and expert on the restoration of old houses, whose obituary was in *The Times* on Tursday, did not live a week or two longer.

Ronnie, who had suffered from poor sight since schooldays, would have been intrigued and pleased to know that a grant of £1.4 million from Glaxo to the charity Fight for Sight will enable Moorfields Eye Hospital to start a Department of Ophthalmic Epidemiology under Dr Richard Wormald. The department will study the incidence and causes of eye disease and visual impairment in the population.

Ronnie Chapman's initial problem was of extreme short sight, myopia, inherited from his father. In Ronnie's case the myopia was complicated from the age of 50 by macular degeneration, the most common cause of blindness and impaired vision. The central eyesight is lost in what has been described as excessive wear and tear or, as another ophthalmologist once said, the "retina becomes as tatty and threadbare as the cloth in an old pair of pyjamas". Why some people develop this form of degeneration is unknown. There may be a genetic factor; it may be associated with other eye troubles or related to diet: there is some evidence that antioxidants found in fresh fruit and vegetables are important. Dr Wormald will have plenty to investigate.

Spotty bother



WHEN he heard that Devon Malcolm, the English fast bowler, had developed chickenpox, Michael Atherton might have been reassured by Virginia Bottomley's recent comments on the disease. The Secretary of State used it as an example of an infection which is well understood, follows a set pattern and in which, she implied, the most serious issue is one of itchy spots.

For children, and possibly for someone as fit as Mr Malcolm, Mrs Bottomley's comments usually do apply; but for others — the newborn, most adults, and patients who are immuno-compromised either by a need to take steroids, even for asthma, or by leukaemia, other cancers or HIV — the outlook is always uncertain and can be serious.

In immuno-compromised or elderly patients, blisters may become infected, generalised septicaemia may develop, the skin can become gangrenous, and the kidneys may fail. As in measles, there is a chance of encephalitis: the incidence is higher in chickenpox, but in otherwise healthy patients the prognosis is very much better.

Prophylactic treatment within four days by an injection of zoster immune globulin is certainly needed for all immuno-compromised people and the elderly who have been in contact with a case of chickenpox.

Possibly too, adults should have zoster immune globulin. Treatment with heavy doses of acyclovir at the first sign of infection is also indicated in patients at particular risk.

The wisdom or folly of pulling teeth

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An X-ray showing an eruped wisdom tooth, right, in the lower jaw: one in four people in their thirties has at least one impacted wisdom tooth

Every year around 116,000 people have their wisdom teeth removed on the National Health Service in what is fast becoming one of the commonest operations in Britain. For the patient it means about a week off work, pain, facial swelling and difficulty in eating. For the NHS it means an annual bill of £23 million.

In the past five years surgical extraction of wisdom teeth has increased by 30 per cent. But not all the teeth removed are infected and causing pain: some are removed to prevent problems in the future. Are such prophylactic operations really necessary or is it just that having wisdom teeth out has become a fashionable procedure, rather in the way that tonsillectomies were 30 years ago?

This is not an idle question for it affects large numbers of adults — one in four people in their thirties have at least one impacted wisdom tooth.

The subject has given rise to heated debate in the letters column of last week's *British Medical Journal*. In the original *BMJ* editorial which led to last week's spate of letters, Jonathan Shepherd, professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, and Mark Brickley, research fellow at the University of Wales College of Medicine, argue that the practice of removing impacted wisdom teeth when there is no obvious sign of disease should be abandoned.

They defend the increase in operations of the last five years saying "good reasons exist why the number of impacted unerupted teeth are increasing, including improved dental health leading to fewer extractions of standing teeth and therefore decreased space for third molars [wisdom teeth] to erupt."

The fashion of removing impacted teeth has touched a nerve, **Aileen Ballantyne** says

However, they cite erroneous reasons too, especially the idea propagated in medical textbooks that wisdom teeth should, naturally come through between the ages of 17 and 20. This has led some dentists to assume that teeth which have not erupted by that age should be removed.

In fact, says Professor Shepherd, several recent studies which have looked at the progress of unerupted wisdom teeth over several decades have found that wisdom teeth can come through as late as the thirties and forties.

He stresses the risks of the operation and argues that these should not be underestimated. For example, up to one in six patients suffer some numbness of the tongue and lower lip and in about one in 200 cases this can be permanent. Professor Shepherd concludes in the *BMJ*: "The wholesale removal of unerupted teeth seems as inappropriate as the wholesale removal of tonsils and adenoids."

But the correspondence which has followed in the *BMJ* makes it clear that there is still widespread disagreement about the rights and wrongs of extractions.

Professor G.R. Seward points out that the tradition of removing unerupted wisdom teeth dates back to the days before effective antibiotics. Then an infection from an impacted wisdom tooth could lead to dangerous abscesses, and the risk of osteomyelitis spreading from an infected socket. "All such problems have declined dramatically", he writes, "but have not entirely disappeared."

The strongest disagreement comes from Mr Russell Hopkins, consultant oral maxillofacial surgeon at the University Hospital of Wales. He takes a different view on the removal of impacted wisdom teeth, even though he works in the same university department as Professor Shepherd.

Mr Hopkins describes wisdom teeth as potential "pools of infection" and "unexploded time bombs". The problem, he writes, has been brewing for over 400,000 years: "Our ancestors then had huge lower jaws, but as we have evolved our jaws have actually reduced in proportion to our skeletons as a whole."

The main reason he (and other *BMJ* letter writers) advance for early prophylactic removal of impacted wisdom teeth is that this type of surgery becomes far more difficult with increasing age. He quotes unpublished research carried out for the private health insurers Bupa which shows that a significant number of patients present in middle age and beyond with acute problems arising from their wisdom teeth.

"At this time not only their bone but also their cardiovascular system is brittle. Their reduced powers of recovery are such that what is an unpleasant experience in the late teens and early twenties can become a major surgical problem with hazards of mandibular fracture, nerve damage, and anaesthetic and medical complications," he adds. He is concerned that, when they are weighing up the pros and cons of removal of unerupted wisdom teeth, surgeons and dentists should do nothing to make NHS administrators and private health insurers think that this is an unnecessary operation.

The Department of Health is already actively exploring ways that costs might be cut in these operations. It would be to their advantage to make a medical case against prophylactic extractions and thus reduce embarrassing waiting lists.

But though this might lead to short-term savings, Mr Hopkins says that postponing surgical and medical problems of impacted teeth until middle age might in the long run prove "a high price to pay for short-term savings and reduced waiting lists".

SIGNS THAT LEAD TO SURGERY

Professor Shepherd's criteria for removal of wisdom teeth

- Recurrent inflammation of the gum.
- Gum disease which is threatening the health of adjoining teeth.
- Decay in the wisdom tooth which cannot be dealt with by a filling.
- An underlying cyst.
- Rare cases in which the tooth or adjoining molar can become reabsorbed into bone

Try to keep a warm heart

Most people would be fortunate to get through the winter without a minor illness. Conditions such as bronchitis and arthritis tend to worsen and there is even a winter depression, SAD, or seasonal affective disorder. What researchers are realising is that deaths from heart disease are much more common in the winter, sometimes 70 per cent greater than in the summer. Reviewing the evidence in the *British Medical Journal* recently, Dr Peter Wilmshurst of Huddersfield Royal Infirmary attributes this to lower temperatures.

Cardiovascular deaths increase in winter, reports **Dr Kieran Sweeney**

Environmental temperature and, curiously, rainfall accounted for nearly half of the difference in deaths from heart disease in one study in the 1970s. Indeed, researchers showed that for every one degree Centigrade difference between two towns there was a 7 per cent increase in the number of deaths from heart disease. Looking across Europe, there is a steady increase in cardiovascular deaths as one moves north from the Mediterranean to Scandinavia. Although diet and smoking might explain some of this variation, Dr Wilmshurst suggests that the rate increases with decreasing temperature. Why?

Chest pains are more frequent in the cold

The heart and blood stream respond to lower temperatures in a number of ways. Firstly, blood pressure can increase — in this country it is an average rise of 5mmHg in winter. In itself, this could contribute to an increase in heart attacks of about a fifth, and an even greater increase in strokes. People with angina say that their chest pains are far more frequent in the cold: this is because the heart is not as efficient mechanically, and the coronary arteries become narrower, further impairing the blood supply to the heart. We all get cold hands and feet when it freezes, which suggests that our peripheral arteries are narrower. But if they remain narrow, and the blood pressure and output from the heart remain the same, then the rate and turbulence of flow through the smaller arteries can increase, causing damage to their delicate inner lining.

Finally, the concentrations of some of the proteins involved in blood clotting are raised in the cold, which can lead to thrombosis.

Can anything be done to prevent this increase? Research suggests that at least part of this seasonal variation could be prevented by better indoor heating. In this country, the problem of winter mortality from heart disease seems to be greatest in households with the worst domestic heating.

Smoking, high blood pressure, and raised cholesterol explain about half of all heart attacks. Other factors include genetic or familial predisposition to heart disease, but it does look as if lower temperatures is implicated as well. Wasn't it Edwina Currie who advised everyone to wear a woolly hat in the winter? Sound medical advice.

● *Dr Sweeney is a GP in Exeter.*

HELP FOR SUFFERERS OF THE **IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME**

The Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust has set up a research programme to discover causes of the Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). IBS affects 1 in 5 of the population... it could be more because many people suffer in silence.

The Research team produces a quarterly review of its work and progress called the IBS Bulletin.

Proceeds from the sale of the IBS Bulletin go towards the costs of the research which has to be privately funded. The IBS Bulletin now has more than 7,000 subscribers. We do not give the names of our subscribers to other organisations. We do not use animals in our research.

In the next issue of IBS Bulletin, subscribers will read more about how IBS affects women, more about food intolerance and fatty foods and also see the initial findings of our latest questionnaire. There will also be a summary of our work to date and the first of our new Question and Answer columns which the Research Team plans to make a regular feature.

If you would like to be kept up to date with information about IBS and its treatment, please join the growing list of subscribers to IBS Bulletin. The cost is £10 a year: (overseas £12).

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Janet Daley



■ Why are doctors and teachers so loath to have their mysteries opened to public scrutiny and comparison?

If you live in Scotland, you will soon be able to find out which of your local hospitals is more likely to keep you alive. For the first time in NHS history, mortality rates for comparable treatments in different hospitals will be published. To ask how good particular hospitals and particular doctors are at saving patients — as opposed to saving money or making use of resources — is to get to the heart of what medicine is about. And that, doctors protest, should be the spiritual province of themselves alone. There is an analogy here in the resistance of teachers to school league tables.

What both professions say is: we are the people who know best what our patients/pupils need, because only we have established a personal relationship with them. Therefore — note the logical leap — we are the only ones who can judge the quality of our own performance. Those who are outside this mystical bond — whether they be hospital trust managers, education ministers or, worse yet, the benighted general public — cannot possibly comprehend the subtle complexities of each individual case, with which we are uniquely familiar.

> The first step to betterment must be information

There is an obvious ethical dilemma here: *enormous and unassailable* power must be given to professions in whose hands rest everyone else's life chances. Vocations which have their own moral code must be accountable only to themselves. But even if the dedication of doctors and teachers could overcome our moral reservations, the argument would still be hopelessly circular. Both doctors and teachers base their objections to league tables on the ground that such "raw data" cannot take account of particular circumstances. After all, they argue, every patient and every child is an individual, not a production unit. Unless you make allowance for *the context of deprivation*, previous history, and so on, you will not properly understand the outcome.

Since no one but a given doctor or teacher could, by *definition, possibly have the* kind of knowledge of particular case histories that he or she possesses, no one else can ever be in a position to evaluate his or her performance. But statistics of the kind displayed by league tables are precisely not intended to deal with individuals: what they do is isolate the one variable which all *the cases have in common*: the need for gall bladder removal, or the attempt at 'A'-level English. Of course, a preponderance of the intake of some hospitals and *some schools is disadvantaged* and less likely to do well. But that sort of circumstance is usually well-known locally. It is absurd to think that the readers of either kind of league table would not take such factors into account. What is more important is that such conditions not be taken as complacent self-justification. If children who come from "deprived" inner-city areas are *expected* to do worse than middle-class children, then they almost certainly will. Similarly, it should not be automatically acceptable for death rates to be higher in hospitals with poorer catchments.

Prospective patients will no doubt regard these tables as a potential life-saver, while doctors will dismiss them as crude and dangerously alarming. Indeed, there can be few cruder distinctions than that between life and death. And being referred to a hospital known to have a bad record could give rise to a degree of alarm which would exacerbate a patient's condition. But would you prefer to be treated at a poorly performing hospital without knowing it? Neither would I. If there are startling variations in the outcomes of similar operations, then we need — as a matter of urgency — to know why. Just as we desperately need to know why the success rate of one school is significantly higher than that of another. There is nothing more likely to concentrate *the minds of under*performers in either category than the thought of public exposure.

Opponents of both kinds of revelatory figures tend to lean heavily on the lack of consumer power within the two systems as an excuse for clamping down on information. If parents cannot get children into their first-choice school, then knowing which one is best will lead only to frustration, just as patients whose GPs are not able to book them into the most desirable hospital wards will be thrown into panic. All of which seems to be saying that people are better off not knowing which are the most successful schools or hospitals, because not getting access to them will only lead to unhappiness: a classic apologia for blissful ignorance.

In fact, even the recriminations that arise from this knowledge will be of use. Secondary schools that do badly will be able to point a finger at primary schools which send them 11-year-olds with a reading age of eight.

Faced with teachers' unions' complaints about the uselessness of "raw examination figures", a previous education secretary retorted, "Would you prefer to have them cooked?" When you are trying to improve a system, there is no substitute for knowing — in cold, disinterested terms — what is really wrong with it.



...the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable (Oscar Wilde)

Staging a triumph

Playwrights may want to make a crisis out of the drama, but it is flourishing

No fewer than 87 British playwrights, including some very successful ones, have sent a letter to the artistic directors of subsidised theatres, asking them to stage three new plays a year. Some of the directors have welcomed this idea, but others regard it as unrealistic.

In the 1980s, when I was chairman of the Arts Council, I supported attempts to broaden out the production of new plays from the few theatres which specialised in them; dramatists ought to have a variety of *artistic directors to deal with. The* monopoly of taste must be bad for the arts. So I sympathise with these playwrights, even though the policy they advocate may not be feasible for every theatre. The bigger the theatre, the harder it is to fill; on average, old plays fill theatres better than new.

The arguments in public letters are often exaggerated. The British theatre is said to be sliding into a "decline and irrelevance" because of unacceptable priorities. In so far as these priorities are to attract and satisfy audiences, they are very acceptable. The theatre has always had to do that.

The 87 playwrights are themselves a sign of the relative health of the British theatre. I doubt if there has ever before been a period when one could have assembled a group of 87 serious British playwrights. As there were a number of eminent non-signatories, including Alan Bennett, Alan Ayckbourn and Tom Stoppard, the 87 who signed must be drawn from a total of well over 100 contemporary British playwrights.

That is a large number, though playwrights should be measured not by number but by quality. The Elizabethan theatre would not have been improved if it had lost Shakespeare and Ben Jonson but replaced them with a dozen apprentices churning out revenge tragedies for the Admiral's Men to perform.

One could argue that British drama is now in better shape than the British novel, that the best six new plays of each year are better than the novels on the Booker Prize shortlist. Certainly the theatre does not give the same penitential feeling; one can still go to the theatre with the hope — sometimes disappointed — of enjoying oneself. The reason new plays do not fill theatres as well as old ones is that a play which has attracted audiences for some years or some centuries is a tested product. About half of all new plays — perhaps more — do not pass this test, and are never seen again. Even so, one does not go to the theatre, even when the play is new and the playwright unknown, with the same feeling of performing a painful duty that one might have on opening the latest Booker winner.

There have been several great periods of the British stage, one of which occurred a century ago, in the 1890s. The playwrights included two Irish geniuses, Shaw and Wilde. Foreign playwrights influencing the British stage included Ibsen. Actors were at the point of transition from the high dramatic school of Henry Irving to the more naturalist style of Du Maurier and others. The actresses included the magnificent Ellen Terry and the tempestuous Mrs Patrick Campbell.

William Rees-Mogg

We might not now think of the 1990s as a comparable period of excellence, particularly as another period of great bravura acting has recently ended. We may never see John Gielgud on the London stage again; Laurence Olivier (though his films are beginning to look strangely old-fashioned) and Ralph Richardson (whose films are surviving much better) are both dead. Our living actors, though there is almost an embarrassment of talent, will not be remembered as another such heroic age.

Yet we have advantages the 1890s did not enjoy. The subsidised regional theatre produces much more interesting and varied work than the Victorian touring companies. In most British cities of more than 200,000 people there is good living theatre, with some new plays and very professional performances of old ones. In London there is the Royal National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican. There is also the Royal Court, which has specialised in new plays for the past 40 years, and there is a varied commercial theatre.

Of course the finances are difficult, but the achievements are considerable. Andrew Lloyd Webber is a phenomenon of the English musical theatre whose works, like those of Gilbert and Sullivan in the last century, have taken the world by storm. He is as popular in Tokyo as in London; the world's largest theatres are full, and the seats are sold and resold at a premium. You either like his musical theatre or not — on the whole I do not — but you cannot question that it appeals to millions of people and is a great cultural export.

This contradicts the view that British theatre is in decline, though I suppose one could condemn Andrew Lloyd Webber's dramas as an "irrelevance", for no one would go to his shows for their social criticism. Yet I would be willing to side with the pessimism of the 87 if I thought the present mixture of subsidised and commercial theatre was untouched by genius. If it were only a machine for promoting talent, that would be good, but not good enough. The arts have this in common with religion: they make an unlimited demand. Talent is not enough in the arts, any more than virtue is enough in the religious life.

At least one genius is at work on the modern British stage, and that is Tom Stoppard. Compare him with Bernard Shaw. Both deal in the comedy of ideas; both combine wit (as though they were competing with Wilde or Sheridan) with construction (as though they were competing with Pinero) and satire and the exposition of abstract ideas.

No one doubts that Shaw was a true genius, though in many ways a tiresome and silly man. There can be equally little doubt that Tom Stoppard puts more interesting ideas, and more difficult ones, on the stage. Many of Shaw's most successful plays are brilliantly second-rate. The ideas of *The Doctor's Dilemma* or of *Mrs Warren's Profession* are such as might have entered the head of anyone of ordinary professional intelligence, the stockbroker on his golf-course or the barrister over his port. They are second-rate ideas dramatised by a first-rate mind. Indeed the plays work so well partly *because* they are relatively obvious. Tom Stoppard's ideas are more complex.

His *Arcadia* is still running at the Haymarket Theatre. A central issue is the significance of chaos theory to the future's unknowability, and a key speech that of Valentine Coverley, the heir to a great house, who has scientific interests: "We're better at predicting events at the edge of the galaxy or inside the nucleus of an atom than whether it'll rain on Auntie's garden party three Sundays from now.

"Because the problem turns out to be different. We can't even predict the next drip from a dripping tap when it gets irregular. Each drip sets up the conditions for the next, the smallest variation blows prediction apart, and the weather is unpredictable the same way, will always be unpredictable. When you push the numbers through the computer you can see it on the screen. The future is disorder. A door like this has cracked open five or six times since we got up on our hind legs. It's the best possible time to be alive, when almost everything you thought you knew is wrong."

Theatre has many functions. Understanding is among the most important, and has been so from the beginning. Aeschylus is the earliest of the great Greek playwrights, and his central theme is the understanding of man's place in relation to the divine. Since Shakespeare's time, countless people have understood their lives better because of his plays. Shaw gave his contemporaries an understanding of some of the social problems of their age. Tom Stoppard has tackled the revolutionary implications of a science which is still emerging, and his audiences are able to follow him. Yet his plays are also very human: his women are more sympathetic than most of his men, and often more intelligent — which I find an endearing quality.

Arcadia is a fully-fledged classic. It will probably be in the repertoire of the Royal National Theatre in 100 years time. It is, to date, the masterpiece of a major playwright, yet it comes from the British system of subsidised theatre. It is now playing in a commercial theatre, but it began at the National Theatre and was first directed by Trevor Nunn, a brilliant director who has spent most of his life in the subsidised theatre.

Important as the classics are, new plays can tell us new things about our own time. "It is the best possible time to be alive, when almost everything you thought you knew is wrong."

Italy has had enough

Berlusconi's time is running out, says John Phillips

If Judge Antonio Di Pietro were to become disenchanted with his august profession, he could do worse than turn his hand to writing drama. Only a man with a finely developed sense of theatre could place his Prime Minister under investigation while the head of government was chairing a UN conference on organised crime in Naples.

This *colpo di teatro* has unfortunately covered Italy with ridicule. As one conference source said, "it appeared as if the meeting was being chaired by a criminal". Nevertheless, Italy is not a banana republic, and Signor Berlusconi may yet prove his innocence. He deserves justice.

Italy's shrewdest pundits believe the balance of probability is against him. Judge Di Pietro and his careful colleagues in Milan are unlikely to have issued the media tycoon with an *avviso di garanzia*, the judicial device supposed to guarantee citizens' rights in magistrate's investigations, unless they have uncovered fresh, convincing evidence that he was aware of the illegal payments to tax inspectors that his brother Paolo has admitted ordering on at least two occasions.

It also would be extremely unusual, but not impossible, if a buccaneering, hands-on entrepreneur such as Signor Berlusconi were not aware of *such payments, for they* were common practice in Italy until Judge Di Pietro courageously launched his crackdown on thousands of politicians, businessmen and civil servants in 1992.

Whatever the outcome, only a miracle could save the political image that won him power in March. Even his best friends now must have difficulty believing his claim to be a Thatcherite *cavaliere*, an ever-smiling white knight, saving the country from left-wing dictatorship. His credibility is gone.

Yet he is evidently determined to try to brazen out the crisis. He may succeed in remaining in office, weakened and wounded, into the new year. By then, to stave off bankruptcy, Italy needs to pass his austerity budget. But the Prime Minister's ally, Umberto Bossi, the foul-mouthed *leader of the Northern League, may* then feel free to pull the rug from under the feet of the tycoon, paving the way for President Scalfaro to appoint a transitional, technocratic government to oversee institutional reforms before a general election.

Berlusconi knows that a government with a strong component from the former-communist Democratic Party of the Left might remove his licence to run three national television stations, depriving him of his main source of income. Without preferential treatment from banks, the heavily indebted Fininvest empire might collapse.

His efforts to extricate himself so far demonstrate his lack of political sense. His popularity, measured by opinion polls and Sunday's local elections (in which his Forza Italia was trounced), has been falling since July, when the government sought unsuccessfully to end pre-trial detention for corruption suspects. On Tuesday, he made himself more unpopular by using national television to broadcast a message to the nation vowing to stay. Many Italians saw this as an abuse of authority, since he is under investigation for episodes that happened before he took office.

Italy is on the brink of the worst political crisis since Judge Giovanni Falcone was assassinated in 1992, while the country was without a head of state. The Second Republic that Signor Berlusconi appeared to have inaugurated was a sleight-of-hand. The billionaire magnate was elected to bring clean government, but now he looks like part of the problem. Next week's general strike could create serious public disorder, because ordinary Italians will deeply resent being asked to make sacrifices by a man tainted by the old regime.

The Prime Minister will not listen to advice from the Quirinal Palace. He is surrounded by sycophants, and the only man who has influence over him is Gianfranco Fini, the increasingly popular leader of the "post-Fascist" National Alliance. Fini calls himself a Gaullist. Now he has his chance to prove himself as Italy's *homme du destin*. His clean-cut, yuppie appearance and good-nature make it hard to believe that he would seek to restore totalitarianism.

Signor Fini has a long way to go before he can realise his ambition of creating a Gaullist or Conservative party in Italy, but Berlusconi's plight will probably help him become the unquestioned leader of the Italian right. A year ago, I watched as he addressed a crowd in Naples' Piazza del Plebiscito and was greeted with a forest of straight-armed, flat-handed salutes. The crowd cheered when he attacked Mafia supergrasses. More Roman salutes sprouted in disturbing fashion at the rally during Alessandra Mussolini's abortive attempt to win election as mayor of Naples.

In Rome, another crowd waved red flags and raised clenched fists as Francesco Rutelli of the Greens was elected to the Campidoglio Palace.

Former Fascists and former Communists both seem to suffer from too much history. If Judge Di Pietro ever decides to hang up his toga, he could do worse than go into politics.

1922 or 1955?

FORGET all the piffle about classlessness, a key factor in today's 1922 Committee chairmanship elections may be Sir Nicholas Bonsor's schooldays at Eton. As President of Pop, the élite corps of prefects, and Captain of Boats, the Tory MP once held the power — and special knobbly cane — to beat other pupils, many of whom are now fellow MPs.

*For the class of '55 was a vint*age one for politicians, boasting Jonathan Aitken, Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Richard Needham and Sir Archibald Hamilton. Among "Cosmo" Bonsor's contemporaries were Sir George Young, William Waldegrave, Douglas Hogg, Nicholas Soames, Winston Churchill and Labour's Mark Fisher.

As most are ministers, Bonsor says they cannot vote for him today. "We have a drink now and again and fondly remember old times." Explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes recalls Bonsor as large but not a noisy extrovert. "But as Captain of Boats, he could administer tannings. They were worse than canings — you had to have a doctor's certificate." As a contemporary, Fisher was spared: "But I certainly would not have fancied being beaten by him either."

One minister with cause to be grateful to Bonsor is Nicholas Soames, once found guilty of a *minor misdemeanour*. "I didn't beat him, just fined him two shillings and sixpence," chortles Bonsor. As an ambitious "wet bob", he once took his eight to Henley to compete against university crews. "It was quite ambitious of us but we got to the finals — and *nearly* won it."



DIARY

● *Janet Suzman and Maureen Lipman could hardly believe the behaviour of a woman in the audience for* The Sisters Rosensweig *at the Old Vic on Tuesday. In the middle of the performance, her mobile telephone rang, and seemingly oblivious to "tut-tuts", she proceeded to conduct a conversation in stirring tones.*

Ripped out

SADLY, Sir Thomas Ingilby, who pioneered the nation's first burglary warning system for stately home owners, is selling off the heirlooms that thieves did not take in a recent break-in at Ripley Castle, Yorkshire. While the culprits stole little of value, Sir Thomas needs £1 million for repairs. The lifesize marble *Venus* by Canova, a giant Jean-Baptiste Van Mour painting of Constantinople and much of the venerable library will be sold.

"It is very sad because these things have been in the family for generations. But otherwise much of the castle would literally fall down — part of it already has," grimaces Sir Thomas. "It is ironic after we have done so much to protect these objects that we now have to sell them."

Big win

WHILE James Molyneaux is to be congratulated on winning the Highland Park/*Spectator* Parliamentarian of the Year award, last year's winners George Robertson and Geoff Hoon report a problem with the huge silver trophy. "It is so huge, it didn't fit on the sideboard," says Robertson. "When it arrived in a coffin-sized box, Mrs Robertson would not let me take it out. Then it went off to Geoff for six months — and Mrs Hoon wouldn't let him take it out either."

New girl

PRINCESS ELENA of Spain, who yesterday announced her engagement to Jaime de Marichalar Senz de Tejada, learnt her faultless English at St Mary's Convent, Ascot. "The nuns were thrilled at the prospect of catching sight of the King and Queen of Spain," an old girl tells me. "But the night they brought Elena to the school at the start of term there was a power-cut, so no one got a proper look except for Reverend Mother."



Victoria Hamilton Russell in her Bruce Oldfield number

Jet-set debs

THE WHIRL goes on for this season's debs. Four pulchritudinous girls will flit over to New York for the international debutantes' ball next month to waltz with cadets from American naval and military academies. Countess Bianca Vidaeff will twirl in a Vivienne Westwood costume, and Victoria Hamilton Russell will pirouette in midnight-blue Bruce Oldfield.

Their chaperone, Bunty Lewis, the organiser of Queen Charlotte's Ball in London, comments: "The debs from each country will form a procession, preceded by a bearer carrying their national flags. It will be rather like the Olympics."

P·H·S

DRUM MAJOR

The sound of insecurity is rising fast

John Major's worries have become more palpable with each successive day this week. The armoury that he had assembled against his enemies within his own party was already close to disproportionate. Last night came the news that he has escalated his nuclear threat from the tactical to the ballistic. If the Prime Minister loses Monday's vote on Britain's contributions to the European budget, his whole Cabinet, it is said, will go down united with him: and so will the parliamentary Tory party.

This news came from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke. It was intended to lay to rest the notion that Mr Major's colleagues would not allow him to seek a dissolution from the Queen were he to lose the vote on Monday.

It is clear enough why Mr Major is concerned at this prospect. It might be reasonably expected that, rather than commit political suicide in a certain general election, his colleagues might instead indicate to the Palace that they were not as united as they seemed and that another leader of the Tory party would be able to command a majority in the House, presumably by making concessions to the Euro-sceptics.

In those circumstances, the Queen would be put in a tricky position. She does not, constitutionally, have to grant a dissolution to a Prime Minister. If she believes that a majority can be commanded by somebody else, she can suggest that such an option is tried first, to avoid the disruption of a general election. This would, inevitably, be politically controversial; but so would be the alternative of ignoring representations from other leading Conservatives. Mr Clarke's words, then, are meant to confirm to the Palace that the Cabinet is united behind Mr Major, that there will be no such representations, even indirectly, from the current cabinet, that if he goes down, so do they.

The behaviour of the Prime Minister is beginning to earn him the title of the Jim Jones of British politics. Cult leaders, however, have a hold on their followers that is almost impossible for the rational person to understand. Prime Ministers, surrounded by ambitious pretenders to their job, have to exercise more than magnetism to ensure that their colleagues agree to electoral harakiri rather than grasp the chance of elevation to the premiership.

It is far from certain that, were defeat to ensue on Monday, Mr Major's colleagues would all feel bound by promises made before the vote. A defeat on Monday is almost unthinkable, however, and was so before this threat was made. Mr Major has the support of most of the Ulster Unionists: the Conservative rebellion would have to be huge for him to lose the vote. The Prime Minister's escalation merely inflames the rebels and weakens his authority in the eyes of his party and the voters.

So does the suggestion that rebels who defied him on Monday would not just have the whip withdrawn, but would also have to be deselected by their constituency associations before the next general election. It was even said yesterday that if associations stood by their MPs, they would have to be disbanded and replaced by more compliant ones. These are dictatorial threats which do no credit to a democratic party. Far from strengthening the Prime Minister's position, this week has made him look more desperate than ever.

SINGULAR OPINIONS

Portillo and Aitken have improved a poor European debate

The standard of politicians' debate on Britain's place in the world has been low in recent months. Labour's thinking in this area remains incoherent. Too many government statements on European policy bear the imprint of expediency rather than vision. Those who speak the language of Euro-scepticism must avoid the vocabulary of the xenophobe — a lesson that Patrick Nicholls should learn before writing any more local newspaper articles about the collaborating French or the warmongering Germans.

Against this background, the speeches made this week by Jonathan Aitken, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, were a robust and refreshing contrast. They sent a clear signal to the outside world of the breadth of opinion within Britain on the nation's future. Neither minister could be said to have strayed from official policy; yet the vivid tone of the speeches and the confidence with which they were delivered set them apart.

Both Mr Aitken, in his Nicholas Ridley Memorial Lecture, and Mr Portillo, in his speech to the Institute of Directors, expressed the concerns of intelligent Euro-sceptics: that the federalist instinct to centralise and intervene is damaging Europe's ability to compete in global markets. "The reality of what we have to face is not a two-speed Europe," said Mr Aitken, "but a two-speed world in which Europe is trailing badly in the slow lane". Mr Portillo likewise contrasted those measures which make Europe more centralised and bureaucratic with those that make it more competitive and create jobs. The national economies of the European Union, he said, could not afford to be burdened by new regulations and inflexibilities in the labour market. These arguments should not be seen as mere mischievous anti-Brussels rhetoric.

Mr Portillo and Mr Aitken represent a postwar generation who see the EU less as a means of taming Germany and keeping the peace than as an opportunity to maximise economic co-operation and trade. They are trying, as Mr Portillo emphasised, to redefine what it is to be "pro-European". In so doing, they are right to emphasise positive developments in Europe, such as the development of a single financial services market and the liberalisation of communications.

They are also right to speak with confidence of Britain's prospective role in this process and in global affairs generally. "We must not fear to speak in Europe with a distinctive voice," warned Mr Portillo. His call seems rash only if one accepts the three-part federalist myth: that Britain is in inexorable decline; that the Atlantic alliance is dying; and that the nation's only future lies in a European superstate. But, as the Chief Secretary pointed out, this view conflicts with much of the evidence. The main economic indicators are encouraging, as is expansion in certain key sectors. The last thing the British economy needs now is more regulation from Brussels.

The Conservative Euro-sceptic right is often characterised as a negative force. But the vision offered by Mr Portillo and Mr Aitken could scarcely be more positive: that of a highly-skilled, confident, deregulated Britain leading the way in Europe. It should command respect at home and abroad.

WEEP NOT FOR WALL STREET

International investors should be grateful to the Fed

Wall Street traders are nursing nasty colds this Thanksgiving, and as usual, handkerchiefs are at the ready across the rest of the world. The Dow Jones index suffered its steepest drop since February on Tuesday, and slid further yesterday. In Tokyo, the Nikkei average promptly slipped back below 19,000 and money poured out of the notoriously volatile Hong Kong market. A more restrained gloom enveloped Europe.

Too much should not be made of one week's drama. Over today's turkey, American brokers still have blessings to count. The Dow has lost about 4 per cent since November 15, when the Federal Reserve, in its sixth tightening this year, posted the sharpest rise in interest rates for 13 years. But the market has yet to return to the low of last April, and has shown remarkable stability by comparison with European markets. It could lose as much again and still be closer than London is to its alltime high.

For the longer term, there are more important questions. For investors, it is whether the US is simply catching up with the steeper declines which have already taken place in other markets or whether this judder is the start of a steep fall in world stock markets, as global liquidity tightens and investors sense that shares are peaking. Morgan Stanley this week became the latest major Wall Street firm to side with the market sceptics: it has increased the cash in its US portfolio from 3 per cent to 15 per cent and advised its institutional clients to trade shares for cash assets. The word is out that the Fed, which waited until unusually late in the economic cycle to raise interest rates in order to give American banks time to rebuild their balances, is now giving priority to cooling the US economy.

Since US monetary policy is still relatively relaxed when compared with previous economic cycles at this stage, that could imply further rises in short-term US interest rates in 1995, to 7 or 8 per cent. Higher rates would hit corporate earnings, making bonds — and cash — more attractive in the short term. But the Fed may be right at this stage to concentrate on the risks of overheating.

Since 1992, America has been in the vanguard of a surprisingly robust surge in world economic growth, to more than 5 per cent over the past year in the seven largest developed economies, the highest since 1988. Although US inflation actually fell in October, to 2.6 per cent, this month's "beige book" report on American economic conditions revealed inflationary pressures in the pipeline. The Fed is, moreover, under exceptional pressure to demonstrate vigilance. It has to counter suspicions that, as the world's largest debtor, America is tempted to lower the real value of its debts through inflation, and to let the dollar fall to trim its current account deficit. The currency sank to a fresh postwar low against the yen this month, and to a two-year low against the mark. That frightens the foreign investors whose money is needed to finance the US deficit.

The continuation of this trend would, as Lloyd Bentsen, the Treasury Secretary, says, be "counter-productive for the US and the world economy". Even in the 1980s, America could still count on net inflows of capital, but that has now been reversed. Pressure on the dollar would force the Fed to lure back investors by driving up US interest rates far more steeply than is desirable, or necessary. The Holy Grail of economic policy for a generation has been to navigate cyclical peaks safely. It may not make Wall Street happy, but investors worldwide should welcome the Fed's determination to succeed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

'Cowardice' and the Foreign Office

From Mr George Walden, MP for Buckingham (Conservative)

Sir, One should never rise to that blustery old debate about the Foreign and Commonwealth Office v the World of Moral Decency, but in view of my involvement at the time I feel myself rising to Nicholas Bethell's accusations of cowardice over policy towards the Soviet Union in the 1960s and 1970s ("'Cowardice' first, people second", November 19).

He is of course right about certain episodes, people and periods, notably the Wilson Government. It was partly in reaction against that shameful era that the Health Government threw out 105 Soviet spies in 1971. Since I was Soviet desk officer at the time, and the mass expulsion was my idea, I hope to be exonerated from Lord Bethell's strictures.

Equally I think he should exonerate my immediate boss, Sir Julian Bullard, never considered by the Russians a soft touch, Sir Thomas Brimelow, Sir Denis Greenhill, et al.

As Mr Oleg Gordievsky has now confirmed, the prestige of the KGB was seriously damaged and the Soviet intelligence machine in Britain never recovered. Thereafter, at the Helsinki negotiations, the British were notorious for giving the Russians a hard time. Together with the present Ambassador in Moscow, Sir Brian Fall, I was handling human rights, both of us more than happy with the tough instructions of our superiors.

Viewed against the unforeseen collapse of communism a decade and a half later, I suspect we got a lot of things wrong; I certainly did. But these two episodes alone blow rather a big hole in Lord Bethell's assertion that the FCO bore aggressive Soviet behaviour with "great patience and in silence", do they not?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WALDEN,
House of Commons.
November 21.

From Sir Horace Phillips

Sir, In his criticism of the Foreign Office Nicholas Bethell gives the impression that he believes that its first duty should be to British citizens who are in trouble abroad, or to foreigners who claim to be oppressed by their own government. It is not. Its first duty is to implement British government policies towards foreign countries. The advice and recommendations of its ambassadors may have helped it in the formulation of these policies, but the final decision and the responsibility for it rests solely with the Government.

The public may ask, after their fall, why the likes of Ceausescu and Idi Amin were welcomed in London; why Amalrik and Sakharov, among others, were not listened to. Whatever the Foreign Office attitude was in these cases (and I myself was involved in one of them), it was the Government that took the decision on them. And took it on what it believed at that time to be in Britain's best interests — which is rightly the basis of our foreign policy.

But no ambassador allows his preoccupation with matters of policy to blind him to the need to help British citizens abroad who are in distress. Nicholas Bethell cannot know in detail just what diplomatic and consular officers did for the Mooneys in Romania, nor for other British citizens he claims were maltreated in the 1960s and 1970s. But after 30 years in the diplomatic service (from vice-consul to ambassador) I can assure him, from my own involvement in several such cases, that British embassies and consulates do not stand idly by.

What makes him suppose that British diplomats are "so hated". I do not know. What I do know is that they are neither "cowards" (to quote Amalrik) nor "timid and unsympathetic". And there must be many British citizens back from abroad who can vouch for that.

Yours faithfully,
HORACE PHILLIPS
(Ambassador to Turkey, 1973-77),
34a Sheridan Road,
Merton Park, SW19.
November 21.

From Mr John Colvin

Sir, Not all Lord Bethell's views on British policy are silly, but his comments on the failure of British diplomats abroad overtly to support or "socialise with" dissidents in totalitarian countries are wrong.

In Hanoi, where I was Head of Mission from 1965-67, and in Ulan Bator (1970-74), had I fixed openly to cultivate opponents of the regime, or to invite them to the house, the authorities would have either prevented them from entering, or arrested them on departure. Friendly British attention to dissidents was, in other words, potentially lethal to the latter.

Yours etc,
JOHN COLVIN,
12a Evelyn Mansions,
Carlisle Place, SW1.
November 19.

Slim pickings in National Lottery

From Mr George Coggan

Sir, With random choices, the odds against there being seven or more jackpot winners in the National Lottery when only 44 million tickets have been sold are 23-1. This suggests that those who predicted that low numbers would be popular were right as the slightly disproportionate number of single digits (3 and 5 came up) would combine to produce more winners than would be produced by entirely random selections.

Mildly interesting, one might think, but then one suddenly realises that there is a lurking danger that the rules create the possibility that when (as will happen sooner or later) three single digit numbers come up the prize fund may not be enough to cover the £10 guaranteed minimum prize, never mind a jackpot. I estimate that if the number 7 had come up instead of say 44 the prize fund in this first lottery would have been about £5 million short of the guarantee. What then — panic?

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE COGGAN,
14 Cavendish Crescent North,
The Park, Nottingham.
November 21.

From Mr Nigel J. Scholey

Sir, I enclose a National Lottery ticket, matching four of the numbers drawn last week, for you to donate to the charity of your choice. I am sorry that the prize is not as high as has been indicated by Camelot; but, like the other 25 million people who purchased tickets, I have been misled.

The odds against my matching four numbers were 1,033:1 yet I still participated, in the knowledge that the payout at that level was likely to be £65 — equivalent to 6.29 per cent of the odds. I now learn that, because of the large numbers of winners of the smaller prize, who still collect 17 per cent of their odds, my prize is to be cut to only £32.

I am, however, thankful that I did not match five numbers, as the expected payout at only 2.7 per cent of the odds was reduced to less than 1 per cent. Spare a thought, too, for those people who succeeded in beating odds in excess of 55,000:1 against and yet who won a meagre £528 for a £1 stake.

All of this would probably be acceptable to the British public if charities and other good causes were the beneficiaries but in reality, despite the hype, they are losers as well. If this "National Disgrace" is to continue then the public must be made aware that the only winners are the Government, the promoters and the advertisers working on their behalf.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL J. SCHOLEY,
Oakover House, 18 Brook Farm Road,
Cobham, Surrey.

From Praneet Shivaprasad

Sir, Why was the National Lottery draw shown at 8 o'clock on a Saturday night, when families watch television? Is this what is meant by "family entertainment"?

Adult viewing is from 9 o'clock onwards. Would it not have been better to have shown the draw then? This sort of programming gives children the message that this form of gambling is just another form of family entertainment.

What makes it worse is that our Prime Minister was widely shown buying the first ticket.

Yours faithfully,
PRANEET SHIVAPRASAD (aged 11),
5 South Side, Stamford Brook, W6.

From Mr Peter J. Beer

Sir, Mr George Snell's near silent response to attempts to fete his jackpot win (report and photograph, November 22) is a lesson to us in wisdom.

As a retired miner, he may know only too well that where good luck is one man's lot, then ill luck may be another's. His respect for luck's caprice is entirely appropriate.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. BEER,
2 Hill Cottages, Reepham, Norfolk.
November 23.

From Mr Stephen Webb

Sir, The National Lottery is blatantly biased towards the elderly. Those of us under 45 cannot use their "lucky" birthdate numbers.

Yours unluckily?
STEPHEN WEBB,
130 Woodville Road,
New Barnet, Hertfordshire.

From Mrs A. F. Lilley

Sir, John Henry Newman had some good advice for jackpot winners: "Give a little of your money back to God so that you may safely enjoy the rest."

Yours faithfully,
STELLA M. LILLEY,
Kingsdown Park House,
Tankerton, Kent.
November 19.

Priestly remarriage

From the Reverend Richard Barrett

Sir, The dismissal by the Bishop of Norwich of the Reverend Kit Chalcraft (reports, November 22, 23) for an intention to marry a third time seems at best confused, at worse incoherent, given that the "breaking of a solemn undertaking" has already occurred following divorce and a second marriage. Why draw a line at a third marriage when surely the principle of "effective witness to Christian standards of marriage" has already been jettisoned at an earlier stage? Logic would seem to dictate a different course of action than the one presently pursued by the bishop.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BARRETT,
The Priests' House,
2 Brereton Road, Bedford.
November 23.

From Mrs Marion Wilson

Sir, Surely what the Church of England needs as it hauls itself into the 21st century is more clergymen like Kit Chalcraft and fewer dinosaurs like the Bishop of Norwich? Well-loved parish priests are not an expendable commodity at the best of times. Parishioners need someone who understands the difficulties of living in today's world, so why turn the rectory into an ivory tower?

Perhaps if Mr Chalcraft's transgression had been to express, for example, a disbelief in the Resurrection, he would now be looking forward to a continuation rather than a termination of his ministry.

Yours sincerely,
MARION WILSON,
38a Windsor Road, N13.
November 23.

Up in arms

From Mrs Rosemary Anne Hart

Sir, Comment on Baroness Thatcher's new arms (report, November 18; Diary and leading article, November 19; letters, November 21, 22) has led to widespread imprecise use of the word "crest".

The crest was a simple, lightweight, colourful emblem attached to the helmet top and designed for instant recognition.

Margaret Thatcher, as a lady, would not need to wear a helmet. Her arms are displayed, quite correctly, on a lozenge and she has neither shield nor crested helm.

The crown atop the achievement is a "crest coronet", precisely depicting her rank, and the only element not subject to the inventiveness of the baroness and the recently retired Garter King of Arms.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY ANNE HART,
Vent House, Charing, Ashford, Kent.
November 22.

National Trust winter closures

From Mr Graham Clark

Sir, Mr Bruce Tanner (letter, November 18) criticises the National Trust for closing most of its properties during the winter. Having until recently been employed by the National Trust as a property manager, over a period of 12 years, may I explain why this winter closure is necessary.

Few NT properties have more than two permanent administrative staff; many have only one. The rest of the personnel responsible for visitor care are either temporary employees on low-paid seasonal contracts of employment or volunteers. All of them work long and frequently unsocial hours to provide the best possible service to visitors. Committed to giving pleasure to others, they have to work hardest while the rest of the population are at leisure.

In recent years the open season at most NT properties has been much extended, usually from early April until the end of October. All public holidays are worked, every weekend, and annual leave entitlement is seldom allowed until after the property closes to visitors for the winter.

It is then that the wear and tear inevitably caused by so many thousands of visitors has to be attended to. The permanent staff organise repair and refurbishment for the next open season; much of the work is carried out by volunteers who exchange their more formal visitor-reception wear for overalls. Many building contracts can only be undertaken in the winter months.

Winter and summer, in my view the Trust is doing the best possible job in serving the interests of its members and visitors.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM CLARK,
3 Winkle Street, Calbourne,
Newport, Isle of Wight.
November 20.

Patenting molecules

From Mr J. R. A. M. Cheyne

Sir, British chemists should not be too discouraged by Hugh Aldersley-Williams ("How do you patent a molecule?", Mind and Matter, November 21).

While it is a requirement of US law that an invention must be "useful" to be patentable, there is no such requirement in United Kingdom law, nor in the European Patent Convention which governs the standards to be applied by the European Patent Office.

What is more, although an invention must not be "obvious" if it is to be patented, this obviousness is to be judged not "in retrospect", but from the point of view of someone skilled in the relevant field at the time the invention was made. As a patent attorney I spend a lot of time reminding Patent Office examiners that what, with the benefit of hindsight, may seem obvious to them did not seem so obvious to my clients when they made their inventions.

Patent attorneys exist to help inventors get the protection which their inventions merit. They are also blessed with the knowledge that, before anyone knew about "bucky balls" (buckminsterfullerene) there were thought to be three (not two as the article states) allotropes of carbon, the third being the amorphous form of which coal is an example.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CHEYNE (Partner),
Haseltine Lake & Co
(Patent attorneys),
Temple Gate House,
Temple Gate, Bristol, Avon.
November 21.

Severn Bridge tolls

From Mr Giles Nixon

Sir, Dr Cordwell's letter (November 13) pointed out the problems caused by traffic, particularly HGVs, avoiding the Severn Bridge on journeys to Wales because of the one-way toll.

But surely the completion of the second crossing could allow each bridge to carry traffic in one direction only. A fee could then be charged both ways. It is unlikely that HGVs would bear the time penalty of travelling the long way round on both journeys.

As the two bridges are practically adjacent to each other it would be possible to do this without huge cost in new road layout designs.

Failing this, why cannot toll charges be collected automatically, as has been done since before the Second World War on roads such as the Pennsylvania turnpike, where drivers toss the required fare into cash-collecting baskets?

This way both bridges could collect a fee in both directions without increasing the manpower costs. Or is this too far advanced for us?

Yours faithfully,
GILES NIXON,
Baytree, Ramsey, Isle of Man.
November 13.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Status of New Forest

From Mr Maldwin Drummond

Sir, Matthew Parris writes (November 14) of the beauty of La Garrotxa in Catalonia, Spain, and of his surprise that "a thousand square miles of such forest . . . is not even designated a national park". At least one part of the forest is so designated, however.

The Parc Natural de la Zona Volcánica de la Garrotxa was represented at the National Parks of Europe Conference held in Alsace last month, as was the New Forest, together with up to 30 other internationally important European areas of countryside with national park characteristics.

In his keynote address to the conference the French minister for the environment emphasised that the charter for a protected area should be locally negotiated but reinforced by ministerial decree — just the outcome the Government has accepted in the Cairngorms, but which we have been pressing for in the New Forest with only partial success.

Yours sincerely,
MALDWIN DRUMMOND
(Chairman, New Forest Committee),
4 High Street,
Lyndhurst, Hampshire.

Traffic in Oxford

From Mrs E. A. G. Crossley Cooke

Sir, The quality of security in Oxford's "park and ride" system (letter, November 22, also November 16) will have to be improved before I am persuaded to use public transport again rather than my car, recently stolen from one car park and found much damaged by the police in another. "Remove it quick before it's stolen again," advised the police.

Money spent on 24-hour security in "park and ride" car parks would cost far less than extra roads. The public can be expected to leave their cars only in secure parks; at present these parks are an open invitation to car thieves.

Yours faithfully,
ELSPETH CROSSLEY COOKE,
Little Coxwell House,
Faringdon, Oxfordshire.
November 22.

Biblical challenge

From Mr Malcolm C. J. Kidby

Sir, How appropriate I found the religious quote in today's Personal Column in relation to the plethora of letters on the subject of University Challenge:

A scholar's wisdom comes of ample leisure: to be wise he must be relieved of other tasks. (Ecclesiasticus xxxviii, 24).

Yours faithfully,
M. C. J. KIDBY,
24 Mitchell's Road,
Haylands, Ryde, Isle of Wight.
November 19.

Business letters, page 29
Sports letters, page 42

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 23: The Queen this morning visited the Royal College of Defence Studies, Belgrave Square, London SW1.

Having been received by the Commandant (Air Marshal Sir Timothy Garden), Her Majesty attended a Lecture given by Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent (Chairman, Nato Military Committee).

The Hon Mary Morrison, Sir Kenneth Scott, Air Vice Marshal Peter Harding and Major James Patrick were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 23: The Prince Edward, Patron, the London Mozart Players, this evening attended a Concert and Dinner at St James's Palace.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 23: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present today at a Service of Thanksgiving at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People.

The Lady Margaret Colville and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 23: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present this evening at The Royal Concert given at the Barbican Hall, London, EC2, in aid of the Musicians' Benevolent Fund and allied musical charities.

The Lady Elizabeth Cavendish was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 23: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Anglian Regiment, today received Lieutenant-Colonel John McColl on relinquishing the appointment of Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion and Lieutenant Colonel David Clements on assuming the appointment.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon arrived at Heathrow Airport at the conclusion of Their Royal Highnesses' visit to Lisbon, Portugal.

Mrs Michael Wigley and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 23: The Duke of Kent, President, the Imperial War Museum, this afternoon attended a Board of Trustees Meeting, Lambeth Road, London SE1.

Captain Alexander Tetley was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
November 23: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon attended a Reception given by BACUP (British Association of Cancer United Patients) at 6 Bath Place, Rivington Street, London EC2.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Concert and Dinner in aid of the Friends of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, London SE1.

Mrs Peter Afia was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

Prince Edward, as Patron of the National Youth Theatre, will attend a charity preview of *Oliver* at The Palladium at 7.30.

Princess Margaret, as patron, will attend a reception given by the Pottery and Glass Trades' Benevolent Institution at the City Livery Club at 6.30.

Memorial service

Dr J.B. Wyman

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Dr J.B. Wyman, former Dean of Westminster Medical School, was held yesterday in the Chapel of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. The Rev Bernard Hughes, senior chaplain, officiated and Dr J.A. Gleeson bade the congregation welcome. Mr R.A.M. Forrest read the lesson and Miss M. Neiland, directorate manager, Imaging and Anaesthetics, read *Psalm 16*. Mr D.L. Evans and Mr R. de Vere gave addresses.

Among others present were:

Mrs Wyman (widow), Mr and Mrs Peter Wyman and Mr and Mrs Christopher Wyman (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr Michael Wyman (son), Miss Sue Wyman (daughter); Professor Roger Greenhalgh (dean, Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School), Mr David Highton (chief executive, Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare Trust) and many other friends and colleagues.

Birthdays today

Viscount Alanbrooke, 62; Mr P.M. Birse, chairman, Birse Group, 52; Mr David Blakey, chief constable, West Mercia, 51; the Marquess of Blandford, 39; Mr Ian Botham, cricketer, 39; Mr Lynn Chadwick, sculptor, 80; Mr Billy Connolly, comedian, 52; Miss Beryl Cooper, QC, 69; Mr Patric Dickinson, Richmond Herald of Arms, 44; Judge Elisabeth Fisher, 50; Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, 74; Mr P.J. Head, former chief executive, Welsh Development Agency, 43; Mr David Kossoff, actor and author, 75; General Sir Richard Lawson, 67; Mr E.A.M. MacAlpine, headmaster, Mill Hill School, 54; Mr William Michie, MP, 59; Sir Claus Moser, former Warden, Wadham College, Oxford, 72; Mr Charles Osborne, author, 67; Mr Alun Owen, actor and scriptwriter, 69; Miss Vivien Saunders, golfer, 48; Mr Edward Stourton, broadcaster, 37; Mr Mark Taylor, director, Museums Association, 36; the Right Rev F.S Temple, former Bishop of Malmesbury, 78; Mr Paul Thorburn, rugby player, 32.

Inner Temple

Judge Christopher Sumner has been elected a Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Dinners

Warwickshire Lieutenancy

The Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire presided at the annual dinner of the Warwickshire Lieutenancy held last night at the Judges' House, Northgate Street, Warwick.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Professor P.N. Wilson, Professor the Rev Michael Banner and Dr David Fisk were the speakers.

Royal College of Pathologists

Professor Alastair Bellingham, President of the Royal College of Pathologists, and Mrs Bellingham were the hosts at the annual dinner held last night at the Royal College of Surgeons after the annual meeting and foundation lecture delivered by Professor Patricia A. Jacobs. Dr Kenneth Calman, Chief Medical Officer, was the principal speaker at the dinner.

Forum 71

Sir Nicholas Henderson was the guest of honour and speaker at a dinner of Forum 71 held last night at the Moat House Hotel, Bedford. Mr Keith Rose, presided.

News from the schools

Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College

The Governors of Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College — a City Technology College — are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Elizabeth Sidwell to the new post of Principal of the College overall with effect from January 1, 1995.

Kelly College

The Governors are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Mark Turner, presently a Housemaster at Oundle School, as Headmaster of Kelly from April 1995. Mr Turner succeeds Mr Christopher Hirst who leaves to take up his appointment as Headmaster of Sedbergh School.

Atlantic Council

The Hon Nicholas Soames, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, delivered the opening address at the national conference of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom held yesterday at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. The Romanian Ambassador, Sir Richard Luce, chairman, General Sir David Ramsbotham, Sir Patrick Duffy, Mr Dennis Hartshorne, vice-chairman, Mr Alan Lee Williams, director, Professor Philip Love, Dr David Clark, MP, Professor David Morgan and Mr David Griffiths also spoke.

Luncheons

Musicians Benevolent Fund

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff and Mrs Nichols, attended a luncheon of the Musicians Benevolent Fund held yesterday at the Mansion House to mark the Festival of St Cecilia. Sir Ian Hunter, chairman, presided. Mr John Amis was the principal speaker. Among others present were:

Earl and Countess Ferrers, Dame Moura Lympany, Sir John Tooley, Sir David Willcocks, the Dean of St Paul's, Mrs Lillian Hochhauser, Mr John Drummond, Miss Gillian Weir and Mrs Lois Sieff.

American Chamber of Commerce

M Jacques de Larosière de Champfeu, President of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the American Chamber of Commerce (UK) held yesterday at Grosvenor House. Sir Brian Goswell, president, was in the chair.

Institute of Physics

The following have been elected Fellows:

Dr Peter Capper (GEC-Marconi Infrared), Professor Wai Chu Fon (University of Malaya), Dr David Hands (formerly of Rapra Technology), Dr Poopathy Kathirgamanathan (South Bank University), Professor Syed Munir Raza Naqvi (University of Karachi), Dr Sergei Sazhin (Fluent Europe), Dr Clive Walker (Institute for Transuranium Elements, EEC Joint Research Centre), Mrs Kathleen de Reuck (IUPAC Thermodynamic Tables Project Centre, Imperial College), Professor Lionel Wilson (University of Lancaster), Dr Sandra Chapman (University of Sussex), Dr William John Haynes (SERC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory), Dr Steve Webb (Royal Marsden Hospital), Dr David Morley Webber (AEA Technology).

Reception

RAF Supply Branch

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Alcock, Air Member for Logistics and Chief Engineer, and Lady Alcock were the principal guests at the annual reception of the RAF Supply branch held last night at RAF Brampton. Air Commodore M.P. Crotty, Director of Logistic Operations (RAF) and head of the branch, and Mrs Crotty received the guests.

Victor Durand, QC

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Victor Durand, QC, will be held in the Temple Church on December 8, 1994, at 5pm.



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is greeted by the Rev Roy McAllen as she arrives at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, yesterday to attend a thanksgiving service to mark the diamond jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People. Mr John Peake, principal of the foundation's training college, read the bidding prayer. Lord Holderness, president, and Mr Malcolm Clark, director, read the lessons. The Archdeacon of Dorking and the Bishop of Brentwood gave addresses. The foundation hopes to raise £5million for a new ability centre during its jubilee year.

University news

Oxford

Magdalen College

The following elections have been made to Fellowship by Examination:

Bernard Albert Mayken of St Antony's College and St. John's College, Oxford, be elected to a Fellowship by Examination in Oriental Studies for three years from October 1, 1995.

Johannes Roessler of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, be elected to a Fellowship by Examination in Philosophy for three years from October 1, 1995.

Proxime accessit Patrick Robert Anthony McGuinness (of Magdalen College and The Queen's College, Oxford.

Glasgow

Professor Andrew S. Skinner, Vice-Principal and Daniel Jack Professor at the university, has been appointed to the Adam Smith Chair in the Department of Political Economy.

Professor Graham Teasdale, a Titular Professor and Honorary Consultant in the Department of Neurosurgery at the Southern General Hospital NHS Trust, has been appointed to the Chair of Neurosurgery.

UMIST

Professor R.F. Boucher, FEng, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University has been appointed Principal and Vice-Chancellor of UMIST from September 1, 1995.

Bath

The university has been awarded grants and contracts worth £5,587,183 between June 13 and September 27. They include:

School of Biology and Biochemistry
Dr A F Chamley, Insect Pathogenic Fungi for Economic Environmentally Friendly Pest Control in the Glasshouse, CEC, £173,154

School of Biology and Biochemistry with University of Sussex
Dr R Harrison, Dr R S Eisenthal, Dr A J Wolstenholme, Professor R C Bray*, Human Xanthine Oxidase: its role in the generation of reactive oxygen species, MRC, £304,853 (Bath Share £266,893).

School of Chemical Engineering
Dr B Sowerby, Professor B D Crittenden, An Environmental Index for Waste Minimisation & Clean Design of Dynamic Chemical Processes, ESRC, £187,510.

School of Chemistry
Professor M Green, Transition Metal Medicated Carbon-Carbon Bond Formation, EPSRC, £128,202.
Professor L M Peter, Dr A C Fisher, Dr G J Price, Scanning Probe Microscopy of Light Stimulated Reaction at Surfaces, EPSRC, £62,819.
Dr M Wills, New Catalysts for the Asymmetric Reduction of Carbonyl Groups, EPSRC, £146,958.

School of Education
Professor J J Thompson, Technical and Administrative Scrutiny of Key Stage 2 Test (TASK 2), School Curriculum Assessment Authority, £179,337.
Dr C R James, Evaluation of the Effectiveness and Flexible Modes of Learning in Post-Registration Education and Practice, English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, £74,808.

School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering
Dr K A Shore, Quantum Well Materials & Structures for Intersubband Population Inversion, EPSRC, £100,686.

School of Management
Professor A Graves, Professor I L Mangham, International Motor Vehicle Programme, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, £212,211.

School of Mathematical Sciences
Dr N Brooke, Computer Graphics Animation of Talking Heads Using a Stochastic Model, EPSRC, £118,057
Professor L C Rogers, Price Formation, Trading and the Numerical analysis of Interest-Rate Derivative Securities, EPSRC, £66,340.
School of Mathematical Sciences with School of Chemical Engineering
Professor A Spence, Dr S T Kolaczkowski, Numerical Analysis of Differential Algebraic-Integral Equations Arising in Models of Catalytic Combustion, EPSRC, £94,289
School of Mechanical Engineering
Professor C R Burrows, Dr D G Tilley, Professor K A Edge, Dr P J Chapple, Dr N D Vaughan, Engineering Design Centre in Fluid Power Systems, EPSRC, £904,003.
Professor J M Owen, Dr D A Rees, Heat Transfer in a Rotor-Stator System with Pre-Swirled Cooling Air, EPSRC (£63,215) Euro Gas Turbines (£75,000), £238,215
School of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Professor B V L Potter, Novel Inositol Triphosphate Receptor Agonists and Enzyme Inhibitors, BBSRC, £101,868.
Dr C Pouton, Dr S K Branch, Dr G Olivier, Dr S H Moss, Design of Selective Agonists and Antagonists of CNS Melanocortin, MRC, £106,596.
School of Postgraduate Medicine
Dr N J McHugh, A Study of Genetic and Environmental Factors that Influence Autoimmunity in Systemic Sclerosis, ARC, £133,419.
School of Social Sciences with University of Exeter*
Dr A Lewis, Dr A B Winnett, Dr P Webley*, Morals and Money: 'Green' and 'Ethical' Investing: ESRC, £108,220.

Appointments in the Church

The Rev David Bacon, Vicar, Lynton Team Ministry: to be Priest-in-charge, Lapford, Nymet Rowland and Coldridge (Exeter).

The Rev Jennie Bradshaw, Curate, St Martin, Herne, w special responsibility for St Peter, Greenhill (Canterbury): to be Priest-in-charge, Claybrooke cum Wibtoft w Frolesworth (Leicester).

The Rev Mark Bulman, Curate, St John the Evangelist, Carterton (Oxford): to be Team Vicar, Halesworth Team Ministry (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Allan Campbell-Wilson, Priest-in-charge, Middlesbrough, St John the Evangelist: to be Vicar, Middlesbrough, St John the Evangelist (York).

The Rev Royston Davis, Vicar, Priest-in-charge, Gilmorton (Leicester): to be Rector, Ogwell and Denbury (Exeter).

The Rev Andrew Edwards, Vicar, Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre: to be Vicar, St Oswald, Netherton (Liverpool).

The Rev Raymond Eveleigh, Vicar, Anlaby, St Mark: to be Rector, Langtoft w Foxholes, Butterwick, Cottam and Thwing (York).

The Rev Stephen Ferns, Chaplain of Van Mildert and Trevelyan Colleges, University of Durham: to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary's, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees (Durham).

The Rev David Fletcher, Priest-in-charge, Furnham w Chaffcombe, Knowle St Giles and Cricket Malherbie (Bath and Wells): to be Priest-in-charge, St Andrew, Tiverton (Exeter).

The Rev Robert Groves, Vicar, Anerley (Rochester): to be Team Vicar, Camford Magna Team Ministry (Salisbury).

The Rev Christopher Hanson, Curate, St Michael, Devonport: to be Vicar, Torridge Team Ministry (Exeter).

The Rev Canon Peter Hardman, Team Rector, Wareham Team Ministry and Rural Dean of Purbeck (Salisbury): to continue as Rural Dean for a further five years.

The Rev Timothy Hawkins, Curate, Cowplain (Portsmouth): to be Vicar, St Pancras, Pennycross, Plymouth (Exeter).

The Rev Peter Hawksworth, Curate, Warminster St Denys, Upton Scudamore and Horningsham: to be Priest-in-charge, Salisbury St Mark's (Salisbury).

The Rev David Hutt, Vicar, All Saints, Marylebone (London): to be Canon Steward of Westminster Abbey.

The Rev Gordon Melvin, Team Vicar, Holy Trinity, Horsham (Chichester): to be Chaplain to the Ipswich Hospital (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Geoffrey Mitchell, Honorary Curate, Oaks in Charnwood: to be Honorary Curate, Loughborough All Saints (Leicester).

The Rev Jeremy Oakes, Team Vicar, Oakdale St George Team Ministry: to be Priest-in-charge, Canford Cliffs and Sandbanks (Salisbury).

The Rev Thomas Page, Curate-in-charge, North Cheam, St Oswald (Southwark): to be Priest-in-charge, Cranham, All Saints (Chelmsford).

The Rev Henry Pearson, Team Rector, Marlborough Team Ministry: to be also Rural Dean of Marlborough (Salisbury).

The Rev Trevor Stubbs, Vicar, Wool and East Stoke: to be Team Rector, Bridport Team Ministry (Salisbury).

The Rev Gillian Swallow, Assistant Curate, Ripponden w Rishworth and the united benefice of Barkisland w West Scammonden: to be Vicar, Ripponden w Rishworth, and Barkisland and West Scammonden (Wakefield).

Church in Wales

Diocese of Llandaff

The Rev Chancellor, Dr Brian Martin Lodwick, Rector of Llansannor and Llanfrynach w Penllyn and Ystradowen, Rural Dean of Llanwit Major and Cowbridge, and Chancellor of Llandaff Cathedral, has been appointed Rector of Llandough with Leckwith. He will continue as Chancellor of Llandaff Cathedral.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.J. Fisher and Miss A.M. Metcalfe

The engagement is announced between William, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Fisher, of Tillington, West Sussex, and Alice, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Stanley Metcalfe, of Lower Froyle, Hampshire.

Mr C.A. Jones-Lockett and Miss J.M. Wright

The engagement is announced between Christopher Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs M.N. Jones-Lockett, of Stockport, Cheshire, and Johanna Margaret, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs A.E. Wright, of Hexham, Northumberland.

Mr R.M. Middleton and Miss R.S. Kenchington

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Middleton, of Market Drayton, Shropshire, and Rebecca, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Kenchington, of Hope Bagot, Shropshire.

Mr D.L. Warnford-Davis and Miss B.T. van den Bergh

The engagement is announced between Darryll, son of Mr and Mrs John Warnford-Davis, of Hailey, Oxfordshire, and Bettina, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Sydney van den Bergh, of Wassenaar, Holland.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Philip Massinger, dramatist, Salisbury, baptised this day, 1583; Baruch Spinoza, philosopher, Amsterdam, 1632; Laurence Sterne, novelist, Clonmel, Co Tipperary, 1713; John Bacon, sculptor, London, 1740; Thomas Dick, scientific writer, Hilltown, Dundee, 1774; Zachary Taylor, 12th American President 1849-50, Montebello, Gordonsville, Virginia, 1784; Grace Darling, heroine of the Forfarshire wreck, Bamburgh, Northumberland, 1815; Frances Burnett, novelist and dramatist, Manchester, 1849; Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, painter, Albi, France, 1864; Herbert Sutcliffe, England and Yorkshire cricketer, Pudsey, Yorkshire, 1894.

DEATHS: John Knox, Protestant reformer, Edinburgh, 1572; Robert Henry, historian, Edinburgh, 1790; William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne, Prime Minister 1834 and 1835-41, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, 1848; Sir Henry Havelock, general, Lucknow, India, 1857; George Croly, clergyman and writer, London, 1860; Sir Hiram Maxim, pioneer of the machine gun, London, 1916; Robert Erskine Childers, Irish nationalist and writer, executed, Dublin, 1922; Georges Clemenceau, Premier of France 1917-20, Paris, 1929; Freddie Mercury, singer and songwriter, London, 1991.

Abel Tasman discovered Van Dieman's land, 1642, renamed Tasmania, 1853.

Charles Darwin's controversial *Origin of the Species* was published, 1859.

Lee Harvey Oswald, charged with the assassination of President John Kennedy, was shot dead by Jack Ruby in the underground car park of the Dallas Police headquarters, 1963.

Appointments in the Forces

The Army

COLONEL: R A Field-Smith - to be CO ASTS, 21.11.94; N C D Lithgow - to MoD, 21.11.94; R J Sandy - to MoD, 22.11.94; M R Brocklebank - to 6 Dent Gp, 25.11.94; J I Montgomery - to UK Sp Unit Shape, 22.11.94.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL: J E Gibb - to HQ RSME, 21.11.94; A M Mathew RLC - to HQ Gutersloh Gar, 23.11.94; T C R B Purdon WG - to MoD, 21.11.94; I P White AAC - to RCB, 21.11.94; K B Anderson RLC - to be CO 156 Tpt Regt, 21.11.94; A M Hood RLC - to be CO 17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC, 21.11.94.

Retirements

COLONEL: B L Belton late R Signals, 24.11.94; G F Smythe late RGJ, 26.11.94.

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Let us now praise famous men, the fathers of our people in their generations; to them the Lord assigned great glory, his majestic greatness from of old.
Ecclesiasticus 44 : 1.2 (REB)

BIRTHS

BARHAM - On November 23rd, in Sydney, to Gretel (née Packer) and Nicholas, a daughter, Francesca Roslyn.

BRIDGLAND - On 22nd November, to Perella and David, a son, Alexander Mark.

CROCHTON-STUART - Flora Grace born to Anthony and Alison November 10th in New York.

DUNDAS - On November 21st, to Melanie and James, a daughter, Emily Rose, a sister for Poppy.

FLOYD - On 18th November 1994, to Leonor (née Castillo) and Harry, a son, Henry William, at Clinica Las Condes, Santiago, Chile.

HARRIS - On November 20th, to Penny (née Beresford) and Steven, a son, Alexander, a brother for Jamie.

McCALDIN - On November 21st, to Geva (née Le Marchant) and Michael, a daughter, Elvira Joy.

MOORBY - On November 23rd in Colchester, to Lesley (née McCullough) and Christopher, a son, Oliver Edward George.

SMIGELSKY - On November 23rd at Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Ontario, to Sonya and Steve, a son, Michael.

SMITH - On November 17th, in Ipswich, to Lesley (née Rawes) and Steve, a daughter, Katherine Hannah Rawes Smith.

TODD - On 19th November 1994, at Northwick Park Hospital, to Caroline (née Lewis) and Alan, a beautiful daughter, Stephanie Helen, a sister for Madeleine.

WILLIAMS - On November 22nd at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Anna (née Nicholls) and Nick, a son, Guy Nicholas Medhurst.

DEATHS

ALISU - Austen, died 23rd November, aged 91. Former MP and Minister of State. He leaves his wife Marie Jahoda Alisu, sons Martin and Colin and five grandchildren. Funeral private.

BACON - Peacefully on November 19th at Conquest Hospital, Hastings, John Stanley Durrant, aged 77, of Hastings, formerly of Aberdeen. Beloved brother of Doris and dearly loved father of Pat and Peggy and grandfather. Service at Hastings Crematorium on Monday November 28th at 2.30 pm and interment of ashes at Battle Cemetery on Tuesday. Flowers to Towners Funeral Directors, Norman Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 6NH by 12 noon Monday.

BAINGER - On November 18th 1994, Private James Christopher Bainger R.A.M.C., aged 24, died whilst on duty with The British Medical Squadron in Zepce, Bosnia - Hercegovina. His funeral with full Military Honours will be held at All Saints Church, Harrow Weald, on Tuesday 29th November at 11.30 am. All those who knew James are invited to attend. No flowers by request please, donations to him, to the R.A.M.C. Association, c/o The Adjutant, 24 Field Ambulance, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, tel: (0748) 872801.

BUSS - On 22nd November, Sylvia Storrs Buss, aged 91. A much loved and loving mother and widow of Commander Stuart Austen Buss M.V.O., D.S.C. Royal Navy. Funeral at St Vincent's Church, Littlebourne, Kent, on Tuesday November 29th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only.

CHAPA - Nicholas Ron, aged 18, tragically in Texas USA. Dearly loved and very loving son of Gilly Thompson and Juan Chapa, stepson of Alan Ayres and Joyce Chapa, brother to Lisa and Eric Chapa, grandson, nephew and cousin to relatives in England and the USA. Forever in your Mamie's heart, Nico.

CLARK - On November 19th, in hospital, Sally (Sally Haddon Mason), much loved and devoted wife of the late Mr and Mrs Haddon Mason, beloved niece of Mrs G.K. Orton and family, loved by her wonderful and loyal friends. Funeral Monday November 28th at 1.45 pm, Putney Vale Crematorium. Flowers or donations, if desired, in memory of Sally to Neuroscience Research Foundation, Atkinson Morley Hospital, Copse Hill, Wimbledon and the Sidney Turner Ward Fund, Putney Hospital, SW15, for their great care and kindness. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, (071) 854-4624.

DEATHS

FACHERI-CAMILLONI - On 23rd November 1994, peacefully at home in Florence, Adrienne, wife of Marcello and mother of Jana.

FREETH - Edward William, retired Headteacher, suddenly on 20th November, aged 77. Much loved father of Martin and Gillian and grandfather of Simon, Dominic, Adam and Jacqueline. Friend to many. Will be sadly missed. Funeral on Friday 25th November at 1.30 pm Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip.

GODSON - On November 22nd in Perth, Western Australia, in her ninetieth year, Antoinette Catherine, wife of the late Frederick Philip Godson, mother of Diana and Geoffrey and grandmother to Bridget, Collette, Michelle, Mandy, Nicola and Roy. Funeral in Perth on Saturday 26th November.

GRIMES - Michael, on November 22nd 1994, peacefully at Mellingey, Constantine. Beloved husband, father and brother. Funeral private. Donations, if desired, to Macmillan Nursing Service, 3 St Clement Vean, Tregolls Road, Truro, TR1 1RN.

JAMESON - Shane William Musgrave on 22nd November peacefully at Tourin Cappoquine County Waterford. Funeral at St Carthages Cathedral Lismore 2.30 Friday 25th November.

KELLY-WISEMAN: Dr. M. Peter. Aged 66 years. Late of Queensland, Australia. On the 20th November, 1994. Beloved husband of Joy. "At Peace".

DEATHS

MAXTONE-GRAHAM - On 21st November 1994, in her 91st year, Margaret Louisa Rosalind (Peggy), devoted wife of the late Anthony; greatly loved mother of Catherine, Patricia, Marion, Miles and Nicholas; grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at the Church of St Margaret, Sotterley on St Andrews Day, Wednesday 30th November at 2 pm. Family flowers only, donations in her memory please, to the N.S.P.C.C. c/o Rackhams Funeral Service, Stanley Road, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 3BN.

MIDDLETON - On 22nd November, peacefully at his home, David of Vanns Lane, Hereford, aged 68 years. A Requiem Mass will be held at Belmont Abbey on Tuesday 29th November at 11.30 am, followed by private cremation. No flowers. If desired donations for Imperial Cancer Research may be sent to Dawe Bros., 115 Westfaling Street, Hereford.

MOORE - Charles H., O.B.E. Former Director John Grooms Assoc. for Disabled People. Died peacefully on 19th November. Service Tuesday 29th November 3pm Salway Evangelical Church, Salway Hill, Woodford Green, Essex. No flowers please. Gifts to Macmillan Nurses.

O'FLYNN - On 20th November, peacefully, aged 84 years. Winifred Madge Cairn, widow of Brigadier Dennis O'Flynn of Camberley, Surrey. Service at Park Crematorium, Aldershot, on Tuesday 29th November at 2.30 pm. Flowers or donations, if desired, for R.N.L.I., may be sent to Ford Mears, 25 Frimley High Street, Frimley, Camberley, GU16 5JD, tel: (0276) 26563.

DEATHS

PEASE - Dr. Noel Joanna, peacefully at her home in Histon, Cambridge, on 20th November 1994. Funeral at Cambridge Crematorium 12 noon Wednesday 30th November. No flowers, donations to Parkinson's Disease Society c/o Mr Anderson, 102 Thornton Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0NN. Memorial Service in January 1995.

PERKIN - On November 21st, at Birch Trees, Midhurst, very peacefully, Mary, formerly of Westborough Green, beloved mother of Caroline and Tisha and grandmother of Jonathan, Nick, Bin and Eds. Funeral Monday November 28th 1pm at Chichester Crematorium. Flowers or donations for Endowment Funds of Moorfields Eye Hospital or R.N.L.I. c/o H & L Etherington, 6 Downsview Drive, Midhurst, GU29 9LW, tel: (0730) 812569.

PERRINS - On November 22nd, peacefully at Leicester General Hospital, after a short illness, Catherine Marshall Perrins, much loved wife of Alfred Charles Perrins and mother of Roberta and Hilary. Funeral at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 25th November at 11am. Family flowers only but donations may be sent to the Renal Unit of Leicester General Hospital.

SANCHA - On November 18th, peacefully at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, Sheila (née Neal Green), beloved wife of Carlos for 46 years. Mother of Anita, Jeremy and Nicolas and grandmother of Elwyn, Merlyn, Cai, Aragon, Tasmin, Tristan, Luis, Carlos, Max, Delores and Lucy. Private family cremation at Mortlake Crematorium at 12 noon on Monday November 28th. There will be a Memorial Service to be announced later.

SIMPSON - On 21st November 1994, peacefully at home, Monica Mary, dearly loved mother of Anne and Robert. Funeral Service on Tuesday 29th November at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, at 3.30 pm. Enquiries to G. Boutell & Son Funeral Directors tel: (0932) 345057.

SKIPWITH - On November 20th 1994 Sara aged 87 at home. Greatly loved wife of Commander Arthur Skipwith and loving mother of Grey, Jane and Anne. Funeral Service in Twyford Parish Church on Thursday 1st December at 11 am, followed by private cremation. No flowers please. Donations welcomed to Twyford Parish Church.

TOWNLEY - Eileen (née Bramley), of Lalton, near Sheffield peacefully on November 22nd 1994. Funeral in Lalton Church on Tuesday November 29th at 11 am. Private cremation. No flowers. Contributions to RSPCA or Cancer Research greatly appreciated.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

BULSARA, Freddie - I still love you. Eternally L.

CLARK - In loving memory of my dearest C on her birthday, G.

MERCURY Freddie 24-11-91 - 24-11-94 We remember you, we love you forever and ever. Mamoula and Pasha from Sicily.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

COLEGRAVE - A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Dr. R.K. Colegrave, late of Kings and Chelsea College, London University and Botswana University, will be held at 3 pm on Sunday 27th November at St Lukes Church, Weybridge, Surrey. All welcome.

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OBITUARIES

MARIANNE STRAUB

Marianne Straub, OBE, textile designer, died in Berlingen, northeast Switzerland, on November 8 aged 85. She was born on September 23, 1909.



MARIANNE STRAUB was the most celebrated textile designer of her generation. Even today, after the extensive updating of London Underground rolling stock, it is perfectly possible to spend hours of every day sitting on upholstery which she designed for London Transport in the 1950s and 1960s. Not many realise this, partly because it is the fate of industrial designers to be taken for granted unless they do something signally wrong, and partly because the fabrics on, say, Victoria Line train seats look as though they might have been designed yesterday.

Many fewer, even among the knowledgeable, had any idea of the extent of Straub's contribution to the everyday context of modern British life before 1984, when there was a major exhibition of her work which toured the country and, not before time, the first monograph dedicated to her work was published by the Design Council. Straub herself was a lively, birdlike woman, hardly at all practically impeded by the lameness derived from a bout of tuberculosis in her early childhood, and she took all the attention with complete equanimity. She still felt that her abiding fame, if any, would be as a teacher.

Indeed, her later teaching activities were both extensive and significant. Ironically, because she did not seriously take up teaching until the 1970s, when she was well past the official age of retirement, she was not allowed to hold a staff job in any of the institutions where she taught. But for students at the Royal College of Art, Goldsmiths' College and several regional polytechnics, where she was a valued visiting lecturer, she was a magical figure, not only liked personally, but putting those she taught in direct touch with the great modernist tradition of design stemming from the Bauhaus. When she was 19 she had been taught at the Zurich Kunstgewerbeschule by Heinz Otto Hurlimann, a recent graduate from the Bauhaus, and the principles she then imbibed informed her work and her teaching throughout the rest of her life.

Her main inspiration to become a designer, even before she went to art school, came from a teenage Christmas present from her parents, a hand-embroidered guitar band designed and made by another artist-craftsman in the orbit of the Bauhaus, Sophie Teuber, soon to marry Hans Arp. At this time Straub was considered a delicate child, having spent more than four years in hospital between the ages of three and eight while her tuberculosis was treated, and had further spells of treatment in her early teens. At school she loved mathematics above all, and though she was fascinated by the idea of knitting and weaving, it was always in strictly practical, professional terms; domestic knitting as a suitable activity for young ladies she instantly despised.

In Zurich she received a thorough grounding in design and practical craftwork but, when she determined that she wished to specialise as an industrial weaver, she encountered the problem that neither of the Swiss textile colleges would then accept women students. Consequently she immediately took a job as a technician's assistant in a mill in her home town, Amriswil, learning by practising.

This was useful but limiting, and when she heard about the textile courses available at Bradford Technical College she applied for a place and was accepted in March 1932. When she arrived in Bradford in the autumn she had already perfected her English, and worked with such furious concentration that at the end of her first year she passed a City and Guilds examination in weaving mechanics which was normally supposed to require at least three years' study.

After she left Bradford, her career took an unexpectedly non-industrial turn: she went to join the famous hand-weaver Ethel Mairet in her studio at Gospels, in the heart of Eric Gill arts and crafts country at Ditchling. This was her first real contact with the English arts and crafts tradition, which proved surprisingly compatible with her Bauhaus training, humanising her work without compromising its mathematical exactitude.

Her first contact with the textile industry in Britain was close to the cottage industry end of the scale, and she worked for several of the many small woollen mills then flourishing in Wales. She gradually acquired a reputation in the trade, helped by her submitting to several major exhibitions, and in 1937 she was invited to join a new company called Helios as head designer. Helios was a deliberately forward-looking subsidiary of the long-established Lancashire firm Barlow and Jones, and Straub was given her head to design modern textiles for modern homes.

She stayed with Helios, living and working in Bolton throughout the war, until in 1950 the company was taken over by Warners and she moved to Essex with it. This period, starting with the Festival of Britain in 1951 (for which Straub designed the curtains of the Regatta Restaurant), was the time of her greatest fame. Her style seemed to fit the tone of the times, and her work was seen everywhere from the London Underground to the liners *Queen Mary* and *QE2*, as well as on the contemporary furniture of such key companies as Parker Knoll and Ercol, and even on the loudspeaker covering for Murphy's first slimline baffleboard radio.

She finally retired from Warners in 1970, though she continued as a very active freelance designer, working from her studio home near Cambridge. She also developed the teaching side of her career, begun with a part-time post at the Central School in 1956, and spent much time travelling between Huddersfield (where she helped to set up the BSC Textile Design course), Brighton, Farnham, Liverpool and Hornsey, in all of which places she was active as a teacher. In 1977 she published a book, *Hand Weaving and Cloth Design*, and her honours included appointment as OBE in 1985 and election as Royal Designer for Industry in 1972.

In 1992, after 60 years in Britain, she returned to be near her family in Switzerland. She settled in Berlingen on the shores of the Untersee, close to where the Rhine exits from Lake Constance, and 15 miles from Amriswil, where she had been born. She never married.

AUSTEN ALBU

Austen Albu, Labour MP for Edmonton, 1948-74, died yesterday aged 91. He was born on September 21, 1903.



A TALL, looming figure, Austen Albu was an old-style Fabian socialist with considerable industrial experience who spent more than 25 years in the Commons without achieving the ministerial success which his friends thought his talents deserved. It must be said that Albu shared their view. He expected to be given office when Labour won the 1964 general election but had to wait until 1965 before being made Minister of State at the short-lived Department of Economic Affairs. Two years later he was sacked.

Harold Wilson, who at first ignored his claims, then promoted him and later disposed of him, was never enthusiastic about Albu's abilities. Albu was equally dismissive of Wilson. When he was sacked he said bitterly: "At least Harold has at last lived up to one trade union principle: 'Last in, first out'." Towards the end of the 1960s he was calling for Wilson's resignation, claiming in one broadcast that a majority of Labour backbenchers wanted the Prime Minister to go.

Albu entered the Commons as a result of a dramatic by-election in 1948. The circumstances in which it arose had already drawn wide publicity because Evan Durbin, the Labour MP for Edmonton, had died by drowning while making a sea rescue attempt on holiday in the West Country. Durbin, a close friend of Hugh Gaitskell and already an under-secretary in the Attlee Government, had been regarded as one of the brightest hopes of the postwar Labour administration and he bequeathed to his party a 19,000 majority but this slumped to little more than 3,000 at the by-election.

Labour had been going through a hard time politically and the by-election, through none of the Government's own choosing, was ill-timed. But, though the majority was expected to be reduced, the scale of its reduction was so large that there were allegations of anti-Semitism helping to produce the result. Certainly, by the 1950 general election, which was fought more on national issues than individual candidates, Labour in Edmonton returned to a more normal five-figure majority.

Albu was the son of Ferdinand and Beatrice Albu and educated at Tonbridge School and the City and Guilds College, where he took an engineering degree. He joined the Independent Labour Party but resigned when in 1932 it was disaffiliated by the Labour Party.

After taking his degree Albu obtained practical experience in engineering workshops in the Midlands and the North and studied production methods in the United States. He became a highly successful manager of a north London engineering factory until 1946 when he was summoned to Berlin as deputy president of the governmental sub-commission of the Control Commission. This formidable title concealed his responsibilities for the co-ordination of political and administrative policy and the development of constitutional reform in West Germany. It also gave him the equivalent status of a major-general.

He came home in 1947 to become deputy director of the non-political British Institute of Management set up by Sir Stafford Cripps to improve standards of factory management. He secured the Edmonton nomination with the backing of the party's National Executive Committee and on his election spoke regularly in the House on industrial subjects. As one of his party's few experts with practical experience of industry management and technology he appeared set for a considerable ministerial career but he had to wait 17 years before his first and last experience on the front bench.

Albu's decision not to fight Edmonton in the first election of 1974 followed a major stomach operation from which he appeared to have made a remarkably successful recovery. From 1974 to 1976 he served as chairman of the Reform Club where his conversations revealed his growing disillusionment with the Labour Party. It came as no surprise when he defected to the Social Democrats.

His last major political action was in 1983 when he called on his former voters in Edmonton to support the Liberal/Alliance candidate against his own successor as MP, Labour's Ted Graham, now Lord Graham of Edmonton. The Liberal/Alliance candidate gained 7,523 votes, Labour lost by 1,193 and Albu's intervention did not help his reputation with his original party.

He was married in 1929 to Rose Marks of Newcastle upon Tyne, by whom he had two sons. She died in 1956 and in 1958 he married Professor Marie Jahoda, who has held chairs of social psychology at the universities of New York, Brunel and Sussex and who in 1971 was appointed under a Conservative Government to be chairman of the Home Office's Advisory Committee on Race Relations. She survives him together with the two sons of his first marriage.

TIMOTHY GAUVAIN

Timothy Gauvain, fighter pilot and executive director of St John Ambulance, died from cancer on November 15 aged 52. He was born in Suffolk on June 23, 1942.



IN HIS four years as executive director of St John Ambulance, Timothy Gauvain brought vision, enthusiasm and business acumen to an organisation that knew it faced considerable challenges. He organised a complete restructure of the national headquarters, making efficiency and excellence his key objectives, and he was vigorous in his pledge that HQ should provide the advice and support needed by St John volunteer members.

A position in one of the UK's leading healthcare charities was appropriate for the great-nephew of Sir Henry Gauvain, an expert on tuberculosis, particularly in children. Tim Gauvain's father, Squadron Leader John Gauvain, was also a doctor and many believed that his son would follow in the family tradition.

He was certainly an academically gifted student, entering Stowe School on a scholarship and subsequently taking a degree in classics from Cambridge. From his early days at Stowe, however, Gauvain revealed a desire to reach for the sky and was active both in the school's Combined Cadet Force (RAF section) and the Cambridge University Air Squadron.

He joined the Royal Air Force in 1964. By 1966 he was a pilot with 111 Squadron at RAF Wattisham and went on to become a flight commander in a squadron of Lightnings — Britain's first 1,000mph fighter — at RAF Binbrook. This was followed by demanding tours at the Ministry of Defence and a role as Personal Air Secretary to the Under-Secretary of State for the RAF.

In 1978 he was promoted to wing commander and was sent to RAF Wildenrath, West Germany, as commander of 19 Squadron, again of Lightnings. Under him the squadron gained the highest possible Nato operational grading in two successive years and won the annual missile-firing trophy. He represented the RAF at meetings to discuss central Europe integrated air defence and was deputy station commander.

He next held a post in the Forward Policy Division at the Ministry of Defence which made plans for air defence ten to 25 years ahead, and contributed to the annual Defence White Paper. He was responsible for the RAF Blue Book, the baseline policy document.

Known as the teenage wing commander because of his youthful looks and rapid promotion, Gauvain also distinguished himself by making the national papers in 1973 as "the incredible shrinking airman". An ejection from his Lightning when it developed a fault resulted in compressed vertebrae reducing his height by 1.25 inches. Despite being told he would never fly again, he made a full recovery and retained a passion for flying even after leaving the RAF.

When he gained his private pilot's licence in 1990 he immediately set plans in motion for a fundraising flight on behalf of St John. In 1991 he flew a single-engined plane around the UK making touch and go landings in 47 counties between dawn and dusk. This won him the coveted international "Dawn to Dusk" flying award and spurred him on to an even greater challenge in 1992 — flying the same aircraft from Genoa to Jerusalem in a single day to raise funds for the St John Opthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. He rounded off his fundraising efforts for St John by running the London Marathon in 1993.

Alongside flying, music was a great passion for Gauvain and he was a proficient pianist and organist.

He was first introduced to the church organ while at Stowe and mastered it with such flair that he was performing on BBC Radio by the age of 14. Recitals and performances on the organ featured regularly in his time with the RAF and St John but his proudest moment was in April this year when he played Widor's Toccata as the outgoing voluntary at his son's wedding at Stowe School Chapel.

Tim Gauvain was characteristically a man of action, never putting off until tomorrow what should be achieved today. He approached every challenge — including his last illness — with intelligence, vision, courage and a wry sense of humour.

He is survived by his wife Kate and their son, together with a son from his previous marriage to Sandra Duff.

ERNEST BRADBURY

Ernest Bradbury, former music critic of the *Yorkshire Post*, died on November 18 aged 75. He was born in Leeds on March 3, 1919.

AS THE resident music critic of the *Yorkshire Post* from 1947 to 1984, Ernest Bradbury was one of the few provincial music critics with a national reputation. He was fortunate to serve, for the first 23 years of his career, under Sir Linton Andrews, an editor who took the *Post*'s arts coverage extremely seriously.

Although he was a gregarious journalist who made friends easily among performers, Bradbury knew his subject backwards, and could be waspishly scathing in print if he thought a performance was not up to scratch. He was known as a great stickler for detail, and was the scourge of any sub-editor who was sufficiently foolhardy to make some minor adjustment to his copy.

Of the three events which he typically covered each week, one might be in a modest town hall, the others at Covent Garden or the Coliseum. Bradbury really came into his own, however, during the big local annual events — the York and Leeds music festivals and the Three Choirs Festival, for example — or when commenting on Malcolm Sargent's flamboyant conducting of the Huddersfield Choral Society's *Messiah*.

He had catholic tastes, and at a time when even Bartok was considered by many concertgoers to be unintelligible, gave a series of enthusiastic lectures on that composer's quartets. But he also loved English church and choral music, having served as a church organist in his youth, and was particularly fond of the songs and chamber works of Peter Warlock.

Ernest Bradbury was born in Leeds and educated locally. His father, among his many jobs, worked at Kirkstall Forge, the local armaments factory. There was no strong musical or artistic influence in the house and it was surprising, therefore, that both Ernest and his two brothers, Harold (who under the stagename of Stephen Manton was a distinguished tenor, and the director of the Intimate Opera Company) and Laurence (an artist and lecturer at the Tate), were to build solid reputations for themselves in the arts.

Having played the piano and organ since he was a boy, Ernest Bradbury studied composition privately under Sir Edward Bairstow, the organist and choirmaster at York Minster, and wrote a number of songs, some of which were broadcast on the BBC. During the war, as a pacifist, he worked as a forester and with Jewish refugees. In his early twenties he started his long association with the *Yorkshire Post*, initially as a freelance contributor.

In 1947 Bradbury joined the staff as the paper's music critic. It was an exciting period for music in Yorkshire: up to that point, the only professional orchestra to visit the county regularly had been Manchester's Hallé, under the direction of Sir John Barbirolli, but after the war, Yorkshire's jaded musical scene suddenly began to blossom. First there was the formation, in 1947, of the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra under Maurice Miles. Then came the first Leeds International Piano Competition in 1963, and Opera North in 1981.

In 1966 Bradbury was awarded the Hannen Swaffer Award for his consistently high standards of music criticism. Apart from music, he was obsessed with cricket, a subject which he and his friend Sir Neville Cardus, the cricket writer and music critic of the *Manchester Guardian*, could happily discuss for hours.

He leaves his widow, Susan, and a son and a daughter from his first marriage.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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BALLOONING

CROSS CHANNEL TRIP

On Saturday last, at 2.15 p.m., Mr. John Dunville, accompanied by Mrs. Dunville, Mr. C. F. Pollock, and Mr. Phillip Gardner, left Battersea in his balloon Banshee in the hope of accomplishing a longer journey than that made early this year by Mr. Phillip Gardner when competing for the Northcliffe Cup. The rules governing this competition state that the challenge cup presented by Lord Northcliffe will be presented on January 1 in each year to the member of the Aero Club of the United Kingdom who has performed the longest voyage in any balloon, airship, or aeroplane during the past year. The cup is held by the winner for the succeeding year, and in the event of any member winning it for two consecutive years it becomes his or her absolute property. Mr. Dunville, having performed the longest journey during last year, is the present holder, but in March Mr. Gardner travelled from London to Poligny (near the Lake of Geneva), a distance of about 425 miles, and to make the cup his own property it is necessary for Mr. Dunville to perform a longer voyage before December 31 next. At the start on Saturday a W.N.W. wind prevailed, and Mr. Dunville tells me that he left our coast between Dover and Folkestone, reaching France just south of Calais at 6.15 p.m., having made the Channel crossing in 63 min. At 9.20 p.m. Lille was passed, and the wind changed to due west, then gradually veering towards the south. Brussels was passed at 11.50 p.m., and in heavy rain and some snow the balloon was carried almost due north. Recognizing that in an hour or two the balloon would be carried over the Zuyder Zee, and thence right out to the open sea, they decided to descend, as it was unlikely, if not impossible, that they could make a trip of over 400 miles. Accordingly, in inky darkness and pouring rain, they came down, eventually landing in a small potato garden in the township of Baelen-Usines, near the Dutch frontier, perfectly safely, although they narrowly avoided collision with several small houses, and fell only 50 yards short of a huge canal near a large lake and some factories. They were quickly seen by an artisan, who was returning home with a lantern from a *soiree*, and, as he could not understand French, he called up a friend from a neighbouring house who spoke fluently, and who kindly took in the party of aeronauts for the night . . .

ON THIS DAY

November 24 1908

A Frenchman and an American made the first crossing of the English Channel in 1785, throwing out all ballast, including most of their clothing, in the process, but two centuries later manned balloons were still at the mercy of fickle winds.

NEWS

Cabinet pact to go with Major

■ Kenneth Clarke dramatically stepped up the war on the Conservative Euro-rebels by vowing that all members of the Cabinet would go down with John Major if he loses the European finance vote on Monday.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was acting to quash the growing claims of the Euro-sceptics that the debate is not an issue of confidence and that Mr Major would be prevented by his Cabinet from seeking a dissolution if he loses.....Page 1

Doctor suspended for fake report

■ A consultant obstetrician was suspended after an inquiry concluded that he had faked two papers on pregnancy problems. Malcolm Pearce, of St George's Hospital, London, was suspended after the inquiry found "no evidence to support the findings".....Page 1

Poll slump

The standing of the Tories and of John Major has fallen in the polls as the Government has become embroiled in arguments about Europe and sleaze.....Page 1

Siege alarm

The mayor of Bihac, the UN "safe area" under siege by Serb forces, made a dramatic telephone call to warn that Serb soldiers were advancing on the centre of the town.....Pages 1, 16

Uranium smugglers

The Clinton Administration disclosed how more than half-a-ton of ill-protected weapons-grade uranium was spirited out of Kazakhstan.....Page 1

Tory's Euro attack

An extraordinary attack on "German warmongers and French collaborators" was launched by Patrick Nicholls, a senior Conservative MP days before the vote on the Brussels budget.....Page 2

Crash horror

A wealthy banker described how he watched as his wife and two young children died in a horrific crash after their car veered across a dual-carriageway into the path of a lorry.....Page 3

Paedophile charge

A Briton accused of being at the centre of a paedophile ring that procured child prostitutes for clients all over the world went on trial in a Belgian court.....Page 5

Lecturers confess

A university's lecturers will declare any personal relationships they might form with students, to stop accusations of bias, particularly in marking.....Page 7

Death rate lists

Death rates among NHS patients in England are to be drawn up as a spur to hospitals and health authorities to improve their care.....Page 9

Kohl's promise

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, pledged strong support for Eastern European efforts to join Nato and the EU and denied that Bonn was watering down its commitment.....Page 13

Berlusconi defiant

Silvio Berlusconi reiterated his intention to remain in office as Italian Prime Minister as it was disclosed that he is under investigation a second time.....Page 14

BBC accused

China accused the BBC of resorting to sheer fabrication in a documentary which alleged that the organs of executed Chinese prisoners supplied a lucrative transplant trade.....Page 15

Clinton under fire

Jesse Helms, the outspoken Republican, was fast becoming a liability to his party after another outburst against President Clinton brought mounting speculation about his future.....Page 17

The bulldog breed out of favour

■ The bulldog no longer features in the dog lover's top 20. The Kennel Club's top ten are: labrador (25,261 registrations), alsatian (19,960), golden retriever (14,685), West Highland white terrier (14,468), King Charles spaniel (13,705), Yorkshire terrier (13,041), cocker spaniel (13,002), springer spaniel (11,148), boxer (8,134) and Staffordshire bull terrier (5,727).....Page 8



KEVIN LAMARQUE

A market analyst points to the sharp drop in shares at the stock exchange as almost £8 billion was wiped off prices. Page 25

BUSINESS

Jobs: Almost 1,500 cuts were announced. Ian McCartney, Labour's employment spokesman, said: "People will continue to fear for their jobs".....Page 25

Pay: Three of the former directors of LWT out of the 40 who walked away with £75 million of shares when Granada took over have wrested six-figure compensation packages.....Page 25

Drugs: SmithKline Beecham, the Anglo-American group, has agreed to sell its worldwide animal health business to Pfizer for £920 million cash.....Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 51.2 to 3027.5. Sterling's index rose from 79.8 to 79.9 despite a fall from $1.5705 to $1.5703 and from DM2.4401 to DM2.4398.....Page 28

SPORT

Motor rallying: Colin McRae became the first British winner of the RAC Rally since Roger Clark 18 years ago. Didier Auriol won the world championship.....Page 48

Cricket: Unless England find a more effective way of countering Shane Warne than they did last year, they will be beaten again by Australia for the fourth consecutive series.....Page 46

Hockey: England's 0-0 draw with Spain in their opening match of the World Cup raised doubts about their capacity to progress beyond the first phase.....Page 42

Sports books: *Football Against the Enemy* by Simon Kuper won the William Hill Sports Book of the Year ahead of five rivals on the short-list.....Page 42

ARTS

Christmas horror: From Tim Burton comes an ingeniously spooky film. *The Nightmare Before Christmas* involves animation in a tale of a kidnapped Santa Claus.....Page 37

Who needs archive pop? "Don't imagine the world is holding its breath waiting to hear what the Beatles made of a Billy J Kramer B-side 31 years ago," writes David Sinclair.....Page 37

Jane returns: The Leicester Haymarket, which has launched many successful revivals of classic musicals, has unveiled its new staging of *Calamity Jane*.....Page 38

Kirov's day trip: Valery Gergiev, the dynamic young conductor of the Kirov Opera, explains why the company is visiting London for just 12 hours next week.....Page 39

Master of voices: Valerie Grove meets Martin Jarvis, voice of the *Just William* tapes.....Page 18

March out: It replaced battered cod with fresh fillets of plaice but the Army Catering Corps is no more. Henry Stanhope mourns.....Page 18

Wise move? Has wisdom-tooth extraction become as fashionable as having your tonsils out used to be?.....Page 19

Up beat: Wrap up well this winter if you have a bad heart: death from heart disease is more common in the cold.....Page 19

Tents moments: No more off-site camping in Greece: the country is improving its image.....Page 34

Write stuff: Afflicted by reports of buried bodies, Gloucestershire is to promote itself as a tourist attraction for literary detectives.....Page 35

Haworth harmony: Patient detective work has led Juliet Barker to assemble a brilliant group biography of the Brontë family.....Page 40

Tall stories: Lucy Hughes-Hallett on the verbal inventiveness of Will Self.....Page 40

"Euthanasia": "This is a terrible book. Everyone should read it." Anthony Storr on Nazi atrocities in mental hospitals.....Page 41

Part two of the Newcastle gangster drama, *Finney* (ITV, 9pm). Review: Matthew Bond on comic actors and *Great Journeys*.....Page 47

Drum Major

The behaviour of the Prime Minister is beginning to earn him the title of the Jim Jones of British politics.....Page 21

Singular opinions

The vision offered by Mr Portillo and Mr Aitken could scarcely be more positive: that of a highly-skilled, confident, deregulated Britain leading the way.....Page 21

Weep not for Wall St

The Holy Grail of economic policy for a generation has been to navigate cyclical peaks safely. It may not make Wall Street happy, but investors worldwide should welcome the Fed's determination to succeed.....Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

One does not go to the theatre, even when the play is new, with the same feeling of performing a painful duty that one might have on opening the latest Booker winner.....Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

There is a mood of feverishness, almost amounting to nihilism in the case of a handful of MPs who do not seem to care whether the party stays in power.....Page 10

Marianne Straub, textile designer; Austen Albu, Labour MP for Edmonton, 1948-74; Timothy Gauvain, fighter pilot and director of St John Ambulance.....Page 23

The role of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.....Page 21

Mr Arafat has managed to make an already difficult problem in Gaza worse. But neither Israel nor the US can afford to simply stand back and let him suffer the consequences. — *The New York Times*

Even if you didn't agree with Clinton's call for US intervention, the speedy and relatively peaceful deliverance of Haiti from horror to hope is just short of miraculous. — *USA Today*



TOMORROW

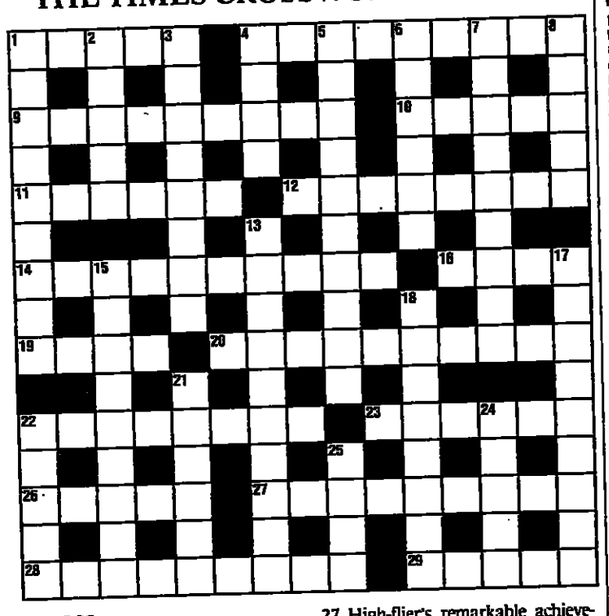
IN THE TIMES

■ NAIL BITING
Caitlin Moran asks if Nine Inch Nails can possibly be as good as Mozart

■ FAT CHANCERS
Falstaff to Bunter — Philip Howard on the role of literary heavyweights



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,708



ACROSS

1 Cut hard and break apart (5).
4 Put top journalist onto newspaper (9).
9 State needs me leading team in modern business (3,6).
10 Proceed without effort, when it's clear danger has passed (5).
11 Support crime (4-2).
12 Cask has excessive share of froth on beer (8).
14 No difficulty being understood in this country's terminals (10).
16 Study intensively in academic stream, right? (4).
19 Party with edge in marginal (4).
20 In May or June, replaced by new artisan (10.
22 Showing respect to flag until ordered inside (8).
23 Just failing to get contract for something unique (3-3).
26 From Irish house I brought back classic tale (5).
27 High-flier's remarkable achievement on course (9).
28 Port open, we hear, needs covering (9).
29 Took horses to ring for cowboys' display (5).

DOWN

1 Combining crime, say, with academic work (9).
2 A different one frequents Alabama — or Mississippi, or Tennessee (5).
3 With regret, take shrub down to the ground (8).
4 As it happens, turning up in base (4).
5 Between concert and party man put on cape (10).
6 Realize teenager's complaint upset mum! (6).
7 Instrument used gin and other spirit (5,4).
8 Took out, not in (5).
13 Expert performer of balancing acts (10).
15 Cake girl found in French church (9).
17 From statesman, if 'e's Tory, it's to the right of centre (9).
18 Listener getting broadcast in part of Ireland (8).
21 Way opera is mounted in arenas (6).
22 Boat heads off South, keeping its flag flying (5).
24 Shape of an egg, clear to see (5).
25 Foreign cleric bishop encountered in Lincoln (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Solution to Puzzle No 19,707

B	R	O	A	D	W	A	Y		A	T	O	N	I	C
A		R		E		C			O		E		O	
K	E	E	P	S	A	K	E		U	P	T	U	R	N
I		G		P		N		T	E		R		V	
N	O	O	S	E		O	T	H	E	R	W	I	S	E
G		N		R		W		E			T		R	
		F	A	U	L	T	F	I	N	D	I	N	G	
S	L		D		E		O		S		E			
P	R	E	P	O	N	D	E	R	A	N	T			
E		G			G		T		P		B		A	
C	H	A	N	D	L	E	R	Y		A	M	E	N	D
I		C		E		D		F		R		M		V
F	R	I	S	K	Y		C	I	C	E	R	O	N	E
I		E		K			V		I		A		R	
C	U	S	T	O	M		W	E	L	L	K	N	I	T

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouces,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereids & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife,Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Prestatyn, Clwyd, 16C (61F); lowest day max: Donna Nook, Lincolnshire, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 0.48in; highest sunshine: Liverpool, 4hr.

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will stay largely cloudy with outbreaks of mainly light rain and overnight mist or fog. This will clear most places during the morning, but in some spots may linger into the early afternoon.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be brighter for a time, but further cloud and rain will spread from the west. Winds will be light, mostly from the west. Southern parts will stay mild, with temperatures closer to normal in the north.

☐ **London, S E England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England:** overnight mist or fog clearing, outbreaks of drizzly rain. Wind light, westerly. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **W Midlands, Channel Isles, S W England, S Wales, N Wales, N W England, Central N:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain after early mist or fog. Wind light, southwesterly. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, S W Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** cloud breaking, bright or sunny spells, generally dry. Wind light, southwesterly. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **N E England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** sunny or clear spells, generally dry. Wind moderate, westerly. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Central Highlands, N E Scotland, Argyll, N W Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** clear or sunny spells, a few showers. Overnight frost in sheltered spots. Wind westerly fresh. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** outbreaks of mostly light rain, mild in the south, clearer and more showery in the north.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: t=thunder; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; h=hail; c=cloud; r=rain; h=hail; du=dull; g=gale; sh=shower; b=bright

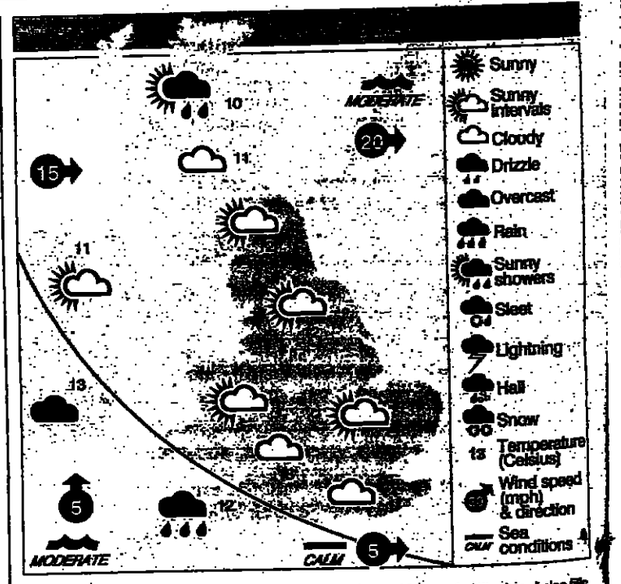
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.6	-	14	57	b
Anglesey	-	-	13	55	c
Aspatria	-	0.04	13	55	r
Aviemore	0.1	0.07	12	54	r
Belfast	-	0.02	14	57	r
Birmingham	0.1	-	13	55	c
Bognor R	-	-	13	55	du
Bournem'th	X				
Bristol	X				
Buxton	-	-	11	52	c
Cardiff	1.8	-	14	57	b
Clacton	-	-	12	54	c
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	2.4	-	15	59	b
Cromer	X				
Doncaster	0.4	-	13	55	c
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	X				
Edinburgh	0.4	-	13	55	c
Eskdalemuir	-	0.48	11	52	r
Exmouth	0.7	0.01	14	57	fg
Falmouth	X	0.04	14	57	d
Fishguard	1.4	-	13	55	c
Folkestone	-	-	13	55	fg
Glasgow	0.3	0.09	13	55	r
Guernsey	-	0.02	15	59	c
Hastings	-	-	14	57	c
Hayling I.	-	0.01	14	57	sh
Herne Bay	-	-	13	55	du
Hove	0.5	-	14	57	c
Hunstanton	1.8	-	12	54	c
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	-	-	13	55	c
Jersey	0.6	-	14	57	c
Kinloss	1.6	-	15	59	b
Leeds	1.9	-	15	59	b
Lerwick	X				
Leuchars	0.1	0.01	13	55	r
Littlehmptn	X				
Liverpool	4.0	-	14	57	s
London	0.1	0.01	15	59	c
Lowestoft	X				
Manchester	2.2	-	14	57	b
Margate	-	-	14	57	du
Minehead	3.0	-	15	59	b
Morecambe	-	0.03	13	55	r
Newcastle	3.4	-	15	59	s
Newquay	-	0.04	15	59	c
Norwich	-	0.02	12	54	fg
Nottingham	0.6	-	12	54	c
Oxford	-	-	13	55	c
Penzance	-	0.06	14	57	d
Plymouth	0.4	0.06	13	55	d
Poole	-	-	15	59	c
Prestatyn	X	-	16	61	s
Ross-o-wye	0.4	-	14	57	c
Ryde	X				
Salcombe	X				
Sandown	-	0.01	14	57	c
Seamin Snd	1.2	-	15	59	s
Scarboro'	-	-	11	52	du
Scilly Isles	-	-	13	55	fg
Shanklin	X				
Shrewsbury	1.4	-	13	55	b
Skegness	X				
Southend	0.1	0.02	13	55	c
Southport	3.8	-	14	57	s
Southsea	X				
Stornoway	3.0	-	13	55	b
Swanage	-	-	14	57	c
Teignmouth	0.3	0.01	14	57	c
Tenby	-	0.01	13	55	du
Tiree	2.1	0.01	13	55	r
Torquay	0.1	0.04	14	57	c
Weymouth	0.3	-	14	57	c

These are Tuesday's figures

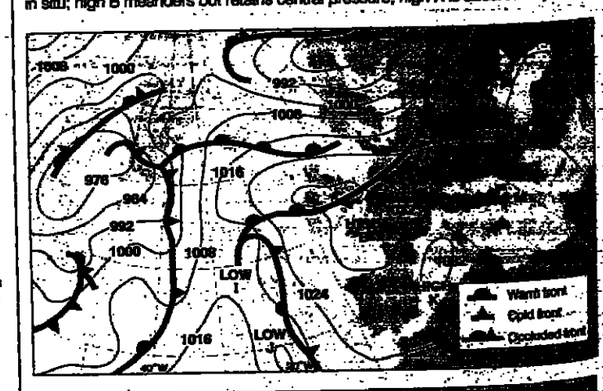
ABROAD

Ajaccio	17	63	c	Corfu	19	66	s	Majorca	18	64	c
Akrotiri	18	64	c	Dublin	13	55	f	Malaga	19	66	c
Alex'dria	20	68	c	Dubrovnik	17	63	s	Malta	21	70	s
Algiers	20	68	s	Faro	19	66	s	Malto'me	17	63	s
Amst'dm	12	54	c	Florence	14	57	s	Medoc C	19	66	s
Athens	14	57	f	Frankfurt	6	43	c	Miami	30	86	f
Bahrain	27	81	s	Funchal	22	72	f	Milan	9	48	fg
Bangkok	31	88	s	Geneva	9	48	c	Montreal	5	41	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	18	64	f	Moscow	1	34	c
Barcelona	17	63	c	Helsinki	5	41	c	Munich	9	48	c
Beirut	17	63	f	Hong K	24	75	f	Nairobi	24	75	f
Belgrade	6	43	c	Innsbruck	12	54	s	Naples	19	66	s
Berlin	1	34	fg	Istanbul	10	50	f	N Delhi	24	75	s
Bermuda	24	75	f	Jeddah	26	79	f	N York	13	55	s
Biarritz	14	57	s	Jo'burg	25	77	f	Nice	19	66	s
Borde'x	14	57	f	Karachi	31	88	s	Oslo	9	48	f
Brussels	14	57	s	L Palmas	26	79	s	Paris	13	55	f
Budapst	2	36	fg	Le Tquet	13	55	f	Peking	5	41	c
B Aires	29	84	s	Lisbon	15	59	c	Perth	21	70	c
Cairo	18	64	c	Locarno	10	50	s	Prague	1	34	fg
Chicago	3	37	s	L Angels	20	68	s	Reykjavik	1	34	f
Ch'church	17	63	s	Luxembg	10	50	c	Rhodes	15	59	s
Cologne	11	52	c	Luxor	22	72	s	Rio de J	19	66	f
C'phagn	6	43	c	Madrid	14	57	s	Riyadh	29	84	f
Rome	18	66	s
Salzburg	6	43	c
S F'disco	11	52	s
Santiago	29	84	s
S Paulo	18	64	c
Seoul	12	54	s
Sing'por	27	81	r
Stkholm	10	50	c
Strasb'rg	9	48	c
Sydney	21	70	c
Tangier	21	70	s
Tel Aviv	16	61	r
Tenerife	25	77	c
Tokyo	13	55	s
Toronto	2	36	f
Tunis	21	70	f
Valencia	18	64	c
Vanc'ver	4	39	f
Venice	11	52	s
Vienna	5	41	c
Warsaw	6	43	s
Wash'ton	15	59	s
Wel'ngton	15	59	s
Zurich	11	52	c

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low I slowly fills and loses identity; low J also fills in situ; high B meanders but retains central pressure; high K is absorbed by high B



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.48	8.5	5.25	8.5
Aberdeen	4.46	3.7	4.56	3.8
Avonmouth	10.13	11.4	10.37	11.0
Belfast	2.08	3.1	2.31	3.4
Cardiff	9.57	10.70	10.28	10.22
Devonport	8.50	4.9	9.16	4.6
Dover	1.48	6.2	2.01	6.0
Falmouth	8.20	4.7	8.46	4.4
Glasgow	4.07	4.4	4.13	4.8
Harwich	2.42	3.7	3.13	3.7
Holyhead	1.29	4.9	1.44	5.0
Hull	9.36	6.43	9.40	6.46
Ilfracombe	9.01	8.01	9.29	7.84
King's Lynn	9.36	5.6	9.43	5.8
Leith	6.01	5.0	6.17	4.9

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	2.12	8.2	2.36	8.2
Lowestoft	12.16	2.4	1.07	4.2
Margate	2.49	4.4	3.23	5.7
Milford Haven	9.24	6.9	9.48	6.5
Newquay	8.16	8.1	8.45	8.2
Oban	8.45	3.8	9.13	4.0
Penzance	7.55	4.9	8.24	5.5
Portland	9.21	1.5	10.02	1.5
Portsmouth	2.26	4.4	2.34	4.4
Shoreham	2.03	5.5	2.18	4.1
Southampton	1.24	4.1	2.12	7.5
Swansea	9.26	9.1	9.51	9.2
Tees	7.55	3.9	7.26	3.9
Wilton-on-Nes	2.38	3.9	3.10	3.9

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Sun rises: 7.33 am
Sun sets: 4.01 pm
Moon sets: 11.38 am
Moon rises: 9.57 pm

London 4.01 pm to 7.35 am
Bristol 4.19 pm to 7.39 am
Edinburgh 3.52 pm to 8.08 am
Manchester 4.01 pm to 7.50 am
Penzance 4.28 pm to 7.51 am

Last quarter November 25

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1994. Published and printed [illegible] at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 071-782 5000 and at Kinfauns Industrial Estate, Riding Road, Preston, Merseyside, PR4 5BD. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office on Thursday, November 24, 1994.

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Message to Clarke: be nasty now and nice later



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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24 1994

GEC's 7-year Yarrow guarantee

Yard's fate depends on VSEL bid victory

BY MELVYN MARCKUS, CITY EDITOR

LORD Weinstock, managing director of GEC, has informed the Ministry of Defence that the company is prepared to guarantee the future of its Yarrow shipbuilding yard for at least seven years if his £530 million takeover bid for VSEL proves successful.

Inquiries by *The Times* indicate that GEC has made it equally clear to the MoD that the future of the Yarrow yard, which employs 3,000 on Clydeside, may well hinge on the outcome of its battle with BAe for control of VSEL, manufacturers of the Trident nuclear submarine. Lord Weinstock is understood to have expressed concern that, should BAe win control of VSEL, and resort to uneconomic tendering practices, such tactics could force Yarrow out of business.

GEC's strategy is to enhance the export potential of VSEL's Barrow yard, which would specialise in making submarines and larger warships. Yarrow would continue to focus on frigates and smaller warships but cost savings would be expected to flow from the rationalisation of overheads and management co-ordination.

According to GEC, this blueprint offers the best prospect for the long-term viability of both yards. GEC's willingness to sign an undertaking to guarantee Yarrow's future for a minimum of seven years is unprecedented and represents a rebuttal of BAe's claims that a GEC/VSEL amalgam would be likely to lead to the closure of Yarrow. Lord Weinstock is understood to have stressed, however, that without the benefits of rationalisation, the possible closure of Yarrow cannot be ruled out.

BAe, spearheaded by Dick Evans, chief executive, has lobbied for a referral of GEC's bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Mr Evans has consistently claimed that GEC's acquisition of VSEL would eliminate competition between the only two UK shipyards with a credible prospect of building large warships.

In contrast, GEC has told Malcolm Rifkind, Defence Secretary, that the long-term prospect of maintaining genuine competition in UK shipbuilding is unrealistic. Lord Weinstock argues that it is crucial for Barrow to win the £2.5 billion contract for the next generation of Trafalgar nuclear submarines, and similarly imperative for Yarrow to win the next Type 23 frigate order. Failure would threaten the viability of at least one yard — a factor that negates genuine competition.

GEC is understood to have alleged that VSEL's bid for the last Type 23 frigate order was below cost, a manoeuvre that forced Yarrow, which won the order, to bid at an uneconomic price. Lord Weinstock has warned the MoD that BAe could effectively force the closure of Yarrow if it resorted to similar predatory practices in respect of the next Type 23 frigate order. Under GEC's blueprint, aimed at ensuring Yarrow's viability, all frigate production would be carried out on the Clyde, despite Barrow's frigate capability. VSEL's union leaders have been informed of GEC's plans for frigate production.

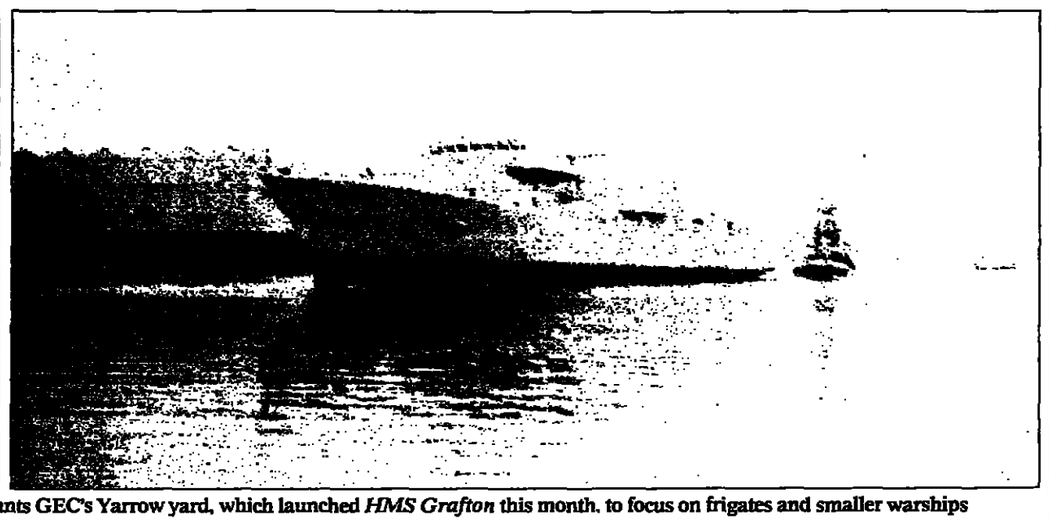
BAe has warned the MoD of the "danger of concentration" and argued that the acquisition of VSEL would give GEC a dominant position in the supply of large naval platforms, various types of naval equipment and naval warship prime contractorship.

Lord Weinstock is understood to have retaliated by pointing out that, if GEC's bid is blocked and BAe wins, the majority of the UK's capabilities in both military aircraft and naval systems would come under the control of a company renowned for huge cash outflows and regular rights issues.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, is studying submissions from both parties and has extended the deadline for deliberations to December 7. His recommendations will go to Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade.

BAe's recently revised offer, launched on the back of a £535 million two-tier "trombone" rights issue, values VSEL at £537 million, or £14 17p per share. This is marginally above GEC's £14 cash terms, now matched by BAe's cash alternative. As share prices reversed, VSEL's quote fell 18p to £14.85p — the premium reflecting hopes that GEC will eventually raise its terms. BAe rose 11p to 434p — 44p above the rights offer.





Lord Weinstock wants GEC's Yarrow yard, which launched *HMS Grafton* this month, to focus on frigates and smaller warships

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3027.5	(-51.2)
Yield	4.34%	
FT-SE A All share	1507.68	(-24.64)
Nikkei	Closed	
New York:		
Dow Jones	3557.47	(-20.52)*
S&P Composite	446.18	(-3.90)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5⅞%*	(5⅞%)
Long Bond	94²⁸/₃₂*	(93⅝)
Yield	7.97%*	(8.07%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5⁹⁄₁₆%	(6⅛%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	103²⁄₃₂	(102²⁹⁄₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5725*	(1.5691)
London:		
$	1.5725	(1.5695)
DM	2.4388	(2.4413)
FFr	8.3770	(8.3810)
SFr	2.0670	(2.0719)
Yen	154.50	(154.06)
£ index	79.9	(79.8)

$ DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5514*	(1.5535)
FFr	5.3275*	(5.3355)
SFr	1.3145*	(1.3175)
Yen	98.25*	(98.31)
$ Index	62.6	(62.5)

Tokyo close Yen Closed

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb) $15.90 ($16.90)

GOLD

London close $385.05 ($384.35)

* denotes midday trading price

1,500 jobs axed by three companies

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

ALMOST 1,500 job cuts were announced by three companies in a bleak day for industry.

The losses were seized on by Ian McCartney, Labour's employment spokesman, who said: "The recovery is a stuttering recovery and because of that people will continue to fear for their jobs."

British Aerospace is to shed 750 staff from its Airbus division next year. The brunt of the cuts will fall on the Filton plant, near Bristol, and the remainder at the Broughton plant, near Chester.

Yorkshire Water said 600 jobs would go as part of an industry-wide efficiency drive. It had said it would trim its core-business workforce of about 4,000 by 10, but it revealed yesterday that the cuts would go deeper. An extra 100 employees will leave by next March, taking redundancies in this financial year to 500. A further 500 will go over the next two years.

Nuclear Electric said 80 jobs are to be axed at the Sizewell A nuclear power station in Suffolk.

But there was some good news yesterday when Flexicare Medical unveiled plans for a factory in the Cynon Valley in South Wales, creating 250 jobs, and Courtaulds, the chemicals group, announced about 120 jobs in a new man-made fibre plant on Humberside.

BAe jets away, page 29

SB animal health sale raises £920m

BY GEORGE SIVELL, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the Anglo-American pharmaceutical group, has agreed to sell its worldwide animal health business to Pfizer, the American drugs group, for £920 million cash.

The sale will help to fund the acquisitions of Diversified Pharmaceutical Services, an American pharmaceutical benefits manager, for £1.6 billion and of Sterling Winthrop, the over the counter medicines group, for £1.9 billion earlier this year.

Analysts expect SmithKline to sell its Lucozade and Ribena drinks brands before the end of the year, but SmithKline declined to comment on further disposals yesterday.

Jan Leschly, SmithKline Beecham chief executive, said: "Our goal is to become the world leader in human healthcare and the sale of our animal health business is another significant step towards that objective." SmithKline has net debts of £1.7 billion at the moment and expects debts to stand at 120 per cent of shareholders' funds at the end of the year, against the 250-300 per cent originally envisaged after the two big deals were announced.

Analysts yesterday admired the price SmithKline had got for its animal health business which had sales in 1993 of £409 million. It made an operating profit of £69 million on net assets of £235 million.

The business is the second-largest animal healthcare group in the world, outside nutritional products, and is the world leader in cattle and swine vaccines.

The acquisition of DPS is being looked at by the American Federal Trade Commission, but SmithKline said yesterday it had made a full submission to the commissioners. The acquisition by Pfizer is also subject to regulatory approval.

Polly Peck TV offshoot sold in Turkey for $10m

BY JON ASHWORTH

ASIL Nadir, the fugitive former head of the collapsed Polly Peck empire, was reported to be in talks with the northern Cyprus prime minister yesterday after a move to seize two luxury hotels on the island.

Mr Nadir is under increasing pressure over a reputed $15 million in tax and social security owed by companies under his control.

Administrators to Polly Peck announced the sale of the Turkish-based Vestel electronics company for about $10 million. Vestel, which manufactures televisions for the domestic and European markets, has been bought by a local Turkish businessman.

Chris Barlow, of Coopers & Lybrand, lead administrator to Polly Peck, said the proceeds would be split between three creditor groups. Vestel had a turnover of $300 million last year. Its disposal is the first of significance since 1992, when the fresh fruit business of Del Monte was sold to a Mexican company for £260 million.

Granada profits up 50%

LWT directors win payout after defeat in bid battle

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THREE of the former directors of LWT out of the 40 executives who walked away with shares worth £75 million when Granada Group took over the London weekend television contractor this year have wrested six-figure compensation packages from the company.

However, the payments to Sir Christopher Bland, the former chairman, Greg Dyke, the former chief executive, and Robin Paxton, who was managing director of LWT Broadcasting, will not be laid before Granada shareholders, the new owners of LWT, for scrutiny. Instead they will merely be detailed in LWT's accounts, which must be filed at Companies House in the next few months.

The payments, for loss of office after Granada was victorious with its £771 million takeover bid for LWT in February, are in addition to their profits on the "golden handcuffs" package that matured as a result. All three were on two-year rolling contracts, but were not paid off in full.

Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, yesterday said that he was unable to call to mind the precise figures paid to the three in settlement, but they are thought to exceed £100,000 in each case. At the time the bid succeeded, Sir Christopher held shares worth £14 million, Mr Dyke a stake worth £9 million and Mr Paxton shares worth more than £2 million.

Granada, which, as well as its two television franchises owns catering and television rental businesses, was announcing sparkling full-year figures, with pre-tax profits up by 51 per cent to £265 million in the year to October 1. LWT contributed £29 million in seven months within Granada.

A final dividend of 6.67p lifts the total by 14 per cent, to 10p, from earnings 29 per cent higher, at 32p.

Mr Robinson said that Granada would retain its stake in BSkyB, of 10.8 per cent after the satellite broadcaster's forthcoming float, at least until acquisition opportunities justified cashing in the holding to raise funds.

Granada was this week found in breach of rules on sponsorship on its *This Morning* programme.

Tempus, page 28



Alex Bernstein, left, Granada chairman, and Gerry Robinson announcing sparkling results

Dealers rattled by latest London falls

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in London suffered one of their worst day's trading this year, dragged lower by the recent wave of selling on Wall Street, which has seen investors switching out of equities into higher yielding bonds.

An overnight 91-point plummet on Wall Street started the rot in London before the market had even opened, while another negative start to trading in New York ensured shares in London would end the day with heavy losses.

The FT-SE 100 index fell by 68.6 points to 3,010.1 at one stage, before recovering slightly. The index ended down 51.2 points at 3,027.5 — its biggest one-day fall since a 65-point slide on June 24.

The index has now lost 119 points since last Wednesday. Institutional switching out of equities into bonds helped volume to reach 650 million shares traded.

Investors, already nervous before next week's Budget, were initially sent scurrying for cover amid further fears that US interest rates could rise again, putting upward pressure on rates in Britain and other parts of Europe.

Most agree that another near-term rate rise in the UK would be very damaging at the present time, although there is still some talk of a pre-emtive rise in rates accompanying the Budget.

Dealers were rattled by the latest falls in London. A senior trader said: "People are still very nervous. This has shaken confidence a bit and the equity market remains very vulnerable to further shocks."

Stephen Wright, equity strategist at BZW, said investors in the US switching out of shares and into bonds were largely responsible for the sharp drop as a further rise in the cost of borrowing is anticipated in America.

He added: "We believe that the FT-SE is well placed and we're hoping that the Budget will present no nasty surprises. Corporate earnings on the whole are good and we are hoping to see a traditional December rally."

Trevor Laugharne, strategist at Kleinwort Benson, expects the FT-SE 100 to be range-bound over the next six months, trading between 3,000 and 3,300. Kleinwort, which retains a FT-SE year-end target of 3,300, expects the next UK interest rate rise to be in the first quarter of next year, with rates predicted to peak at 6¾ per cent in the second half of 1995.

The slide on Wall Street was the main driving force behind retreats on other European bourses. German shares ended above their lows as investors reacted to the negative news from Wall Street. The Dax ended 41.46 points lower at 2,033.3, with better than expected money supply figures for October having little impact.

The Paris stock market slipped below the 1,900 level as the CAC-40 index fell 18.3 points to 1,893.09. Zurich, Amsterdam, Brussels and Stockholm all closed weaker, but off their worst.

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Clarke urged to produce Budget aimed at jobs

BY JANET BUSH IN LONDON AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

THE Chancellor should deliver a Budget for jobs, neutral in fiscal terms overall but "mildly expansionary" in trying to reduce unemployment, according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

The institute backed up the European Commission's white paper on employment, calling for measures to ease disincentives to employing less skilled workers. It particularly recommended reform of the National Insurance system to reduce substantially employer contributions in respect of relatively low paid workers. It also wants the benefit system changed to improve incentives for the unemployed to seek work.

Kenneth Clarke is widely expected to unveil some proposals in this area in next Tuesday's Budget.

The institute's latest Economic Review coincided with a new forecast from the Commission, which used the opportunity to call for structural measures to tackle unemployment around Europe. It estimated unemployment would fall only marginally, from 10.9 per cent this year to 9.8 per cent in 1996.

The Commission will present a specific action plan to the EU summit in Essen, including radical proposals for reforming taxation and social security. This will form a guideline for national government policy. Among its recommendations will be action to reduce non-wage labour costs through changes in taxation, along the lines of the institute's thinking.

The Commission said that unemployment should fall faster in Britain over the next two years than elsewhere in the EU, with the rate dropping to 7.6 per cent compared with the EU average of 9.8 per cent.

However, during 1995 and 1996 Britain will have the slowest growth among the present EU members, except Greece, partly reflecting Britain's advanced postion in the current economic cycle. The report estimates that growth this year of 3.8 per cent will taper off to only 2.7 per cent next year. That compares with 3 per cent in Germany and 3.2 per cent in France.

British inflation is forecast to rise to 2.9 per cent next year while German inflation falls to 2.2 per cent, meaning Britain would fail to meet the EU's inflation target of 2-3 per cent set out in economic guidelines last summer.

However, the National Institute yesterday revised its forecast for British inflation significantly downwards. In August, the institute was forecasting a rate of 3.8 per cent at the end of next year. Its latest forecast is for 2.8 per cent. Because of this, it does not recommend any rises in interest rates for the time being. It still believes further tightening of monetary policy will be needed to maintain anti-inflation credibility.

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Economic View, page 29

Clinton and Dole strike Gatt deal

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton's hopes of winning congressional approval of the world trade accord soared yesterday when he struck a deal that finally overcame the opposition of Robert Dole, Republican leader of the Senate.

The agreement between the two men all but assures that a divided Senate will ratify the accord next week despite fierce opposition from protectionists, those who believe it will undermine US sovereignty, and Ross Perot. The support of the House of Representatives was never in much doubt.

Mr Dole had objected particularly to the powers of the World Trade Organisation, the body that would police the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade accord, to impose its decisions on the US. Mr Clinton agreed that a panel of US judges should review the WTO's decisions, and if it found three instances of discrimination against the US within a certain period, it could order a congressional vote on US withdrawal.

Mr Dole had also sought, in return for his endorsement, a promise that the administration would cease opposing Republican plans to halve capital gains tax to encourage investment. The senator settled for an assurance from Lloyd Bentsen, the Treasury Secretary, that the idea would be given serious consideration.

Mr Clinton's "fast-track" authority expires next month, meaning Congress would no longer have to vote simply "yes" or "no" to the entire package, but could destroy it with amendments.

Mr Clinton called the accord the "largest international tax cut in history" and said it would create hundreds of thousands of high-paying US jobs.

Mr Perot has threatened to start a third political party if Congress approves the trade accord.



Clinton: largest tax cut

GAETAN COTTON



David Jones, chief executive of National Grid, left, and David Jefferies, chairman

Grid up after costs cut

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

NATIONAL Grid, whose privatisation plan and timetable is expected to be unveiled by the Government next week, raised its operating profit 3.8 per cent in the first half, mainly reflecting cost-cutting in its core business.

The transmission company, valued at about £5 billion, is owned by the 12 regional electricity companies (RECs). It is expected to be floated next spring, raising around £1 billion for the Treasury through capital gains tax charged on the RECs' shares.

Interim results, out yesterday, showed operating profit, on a historical cost basis, rising to £332 million in the half year to September 30 from £310 million at the same stage last year. The underlying profit improvement, which excludes debt redemption and related cuts in net interest, was 4.1 per cent before tax.

The company declared an interim profit attributable to shareholders of £54 million, up from 46 million at half way last year. The interim net dividend of £1.080 per ordinary share will be paid to shareholders on January 6. This compared with a dividend of £920 last year.

In preparation for privatisation the company has redeemed an aggregate £333.3 million of debt held by the Government. A premium of £33.3 million, paid on early redemption for cash of £300 million of government debt, was charged to the profit and loss account. David Jefferies, the chairman, declined to elaborate on the privatisation plans, insisting that they were a matter for the owners.

"Excellent progress" was being made and the timetable was "maintaining momentum". He would not say what level of debt National Grid expects to have put on its balance sheet in conjunction with privatisation. Market speculation has centred on about £1 billion.

Cost cutting in the current year will mean a reduction of the workforce by 382 to 4,300 at the end of March. Overall costs, excluding Energis and severances, fell 10 per cent in real terms in the first half.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US durables orders decline in October

SHARPLY lower orders for new cars and aircraft pulled the value of American durable goods orders down in October for the first time in three months, the US Commerce Department said. Total orders for durable goods — products like furniture, cars and computers — fell 1.5 per cent to a seasonally adjusted $152.8 billion after a revised 0.3 per cent rise in September. Wall Street economists had forecast a 0.4 per cent gain in October orders, rather than a fall. Last month's fall in overall durables orders was caused entirely by a sharp decline in orders for transportation goods, which plunged 9.4 per cent to a seasonally adjusted $35.2 billion. It was the biggest one-month drop in transportation orders since July, when they fell 14.8 per cent.

Department officials said about half the drop in transportation orders last month was accounted for by cars, but there were also fewer orders than in September for new commercial aircraft. Excluding transportation, durable goods orders rose 1.1 per cent in October after a 0.4 per cent September increase. Previously, the department said September durable goods orders were up 0.4 per cent. But it has now revised that down slightly to a 0.3 per cent rise.

Broker slips into red

SHARELINK Investment Services, the telephone-based stockbroker, incurred a loss of £468,000 in the six months to September 30 after trading volumes had fallen with the slide in stock market prices. The company made a record £3.68 million profit last time, which included £1.3 million from privatisation business. In spite of the loss, the interim dividend is pegged at 3p. The company said that the loss was partly caused by development spending of £700,000. This included the establishment of MarketMaster, the portfolio management service, which has taken in funds of £30 million since its launch. Tempus, page 27

Cartel facing fines

THE European Commission's decision on the alleged cement cartel involving more than 30 companies is imminent. The full meeting of the 17 commissioners in Brussels next Wednesday will consider a 300-page document on the case, and there is little doubt that the five-year investigation into rigging prices and carving up markets will end in financial penalties — possibly one of the largest fines imposed on industry by the commission. Germany's Dickerhoff and Belgium's CBR confirmed they were part of the final list of companies being investigated, which was reduced from 76 firms at first.

Airline's $800m order

BRITANNIA Airways, charter airline arm of the Thomson travel group, has ordered four Boeing 767-300 aircraft and taken an option on four more in an $800 million deal. The first four aircraft will be delivered in the spring of 1996, with the remainder expected to join the airline's fleet between 1997 and the end of the century. Britannia, owned by Thomson Corp, the Canadian group, is the second largest airline in Britain with29 aircraft. The aircraft package combines outright purchases and leasing deals. The new planes form part of a modernisation programme and will replace older Boeing 757 and 767-200 aircraft.

Contract for Tarmac

TARMAC, the UK construction company, has won a major role in a $250 million power station contract in Malaysia, it was announced yesterday. TBV Power, a joint venture between Tarmac and US engineer Black and Veatch, will undertake the design, equipment supply and construction of the coal-fired plant, the largest power station in Malaysia. Neville Simms, chief executive of the Wolverhampton-based group, said: "The power station. . .confirms the success of a key part of the group's new strategy to concentrate our efforts towards the growing markets in the Far East."

Lloyd's names council

MEMBERSHIP of the Lloyd's of London council for 1995 was decided yesterday. Graham McKean of BMS Associates, John Stace of Stace Barr Underwriting, and Michael Cockell of MH Cockell & Partners will fill three working seats on the council from January 1995. Christopher Messer and Lady Delves Broughton will fill two external seats. The chairman and two deputy chairmen of the Lloyd's council will be appointed from among the working members when the newly elected council meets for the first time in early January.

Losses deepen at MG

METALLGESELLSCHAFT (MG), the German metals and engineering group that narrowly escaped bankruptcy early this year, saw losses deepen to DM2.7 billion, from DM2 billion, in the year to September 30. Excluding huge oil-futures losses by MG Corp, its American subsidiary, MG lost DM69 million, against a DM305 million loss the previous year. It is to seek shareholder approval for a capital write-down via one new share for every two existing shares. A DM100 million operating profit is expected this financial year, Kajo Neukirchen, management board chairman, said.

Building societies seek rules change

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

THE Building Societies Association yesterday called for efficient evolution of the rules governing the lending activities of its members to allow them to diversify services while retaining mutual status.

Appearing before the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee, Donald Kirkham, the association's chairman, said building societies were not looking for a quantum leap to deregulation. Rather, they were seeking to evolve in an orderly and efficient manner, he said.

The committee was concluding its hearing of evidence from building societies as part of an on-going inquiry into financial services regulation.

Mr Kirkham said building societies remained far more efficient than banks and had "an exemplory record as a place of safety and security" for ordinary people's investments. In its formal submission, the association, which represents 82 building societies, backed a move towards "permissive" controls allowing its members to react more quickly to market changes in line with their competitors.

Adrian Coles, the association's director-general, said that at present, societies had to seek full parliamentary approval for even small changes to controls on lending. The association wants societies to have the power to hold any type of asset "so long as at least 50 per cent of commercial assets are held in residential mortgages," and the removal of all restriction on the type of services they can offer.

Top Tories wheeled out to talk up finance initiative

BY ERIC REGULY

AN ARMY of high-ranking Conservatives was pressed into service yesterday to promote the Private Finance Initiative, a two-year-old Treasury-driven programme that is alive but apparently not well.

A total of nine secretaries of state, ministers of state, and under-secretaries made speeches at a one-day conference, sponsored by the Bow Group in London, on the initiative's "latest opportunities." Speakers included included Tim Eggar, of the Trade Department, John Gummer, of Environment, Stephen Dorrell, of National Heritage.

Assembled before 260 businessmen, bankers, lawyers and the like, each of whom had paid £376 to attend, they faced a real challenge. The initiative, whose goal is attract private financing and management to government projects, has made a slow start. Only a few projects, such as river crossings, have taken off and private-funding commitments have reached no more than £500 million.

Stephen Bantoft, managing director of Ashmount Estates, a small developer, said: "It's had little success because there have been so many confusing signals sent out by the Government. There was a lack of focus; the emphasis always had been on huge infrastructure projects, not the smaller projects."

Recognising that omission, ministers emphasised that smaller projects were candidates as well and presented their lists. "Come to Wales," said John Redwood, Secretary of State for Wales, "Come and make a profit."

Mr Redwood said he had a couple of billion pounds worth of activity, mainly housing, light commercial and telecommunications projects, up for grabs in Cardiff Bay and in the valleys. Not to be outdone, Ian Lang, Secretary of State for Scotland, said he had all sorts of schemes, in which the private sector builds, owns and operates the project.

Many delegates said that they found the session useful, but problems remain. Some said the Government had been unrealistic on its risk-reward scenarios.



Lang: schemes galore

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.01
Austria Sch	16.13	16.63
Belgium Fr	53.26	48.86
Canada $	2.268	2.106
Cyprus CypE	0.779	0.729
Denmark Kr	10.15	9.35
Finland Mrk	8.05	7.35
France Fr	8.89	8.16
Germany Dm	2.59	2.36
Greece Dr	396.00	371.00
Hong Kong $	12.79	11.79
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.96
Italy Lira	2625.00	2471.00
Japan Yen	168.50	152.50
Malta	0.618	0.583
Netherlds Gld	2.879	2.649
Norway Kr	11.25	10.45
Portugal Esc	259.50	241.00
S Africa Rd	nil	5.30
Spain Pta	219.69	199.59
Sweden Kr	12.16	11.35
Switzerland Fr	2.19	2.01
Turkey Lira	nil	55258.0
USA $	1.559	1.539

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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cleaning up the industry

The photocopier leasing market has a reputation for some very dirty tactics. Companies even offer courses in how to combat photocopier salesmen. The industry needs to be cleaned up.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, the Director General of Fair Trading in the OFT's report "Photocopier Selling Practices", published in March 1994, writes: "Misrepresentation, obfuscation and deceit are the things that are objectionable." Danka agree.

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DANKA

☐ Sense and outrage over top pay ☐ UK current account looks surprisingly healthy ☐ RECs clear the way for Grid sale

Smell of gas in the Budget

☐ THE SAGA of Cedric Brown's pay was a political accident waiting to happen. It could yet influence Tuesday's Budget. A gas competition Bill in the Queen's speech, plus a formal increase in household gas prices, soon had tabloid newspapers looking at the rewards of British Gas directors in search of embarrassing facts. Contracts can no longer be kept secret, so British Gas took a bold initiative. It presented salary hikes as part of a pioneering reform of board pay structures by new chairman Richard Giordano. The package would sweep away unearned bonuses and bring the company in line with the spirit of the Cadbury report. This was a gamble, not least because the pay changes had been devised back in the spring. It backfired.

If any company's directors deserve a big pay rise, it is those of British Gas. From being a solid monopoly, it has become the most difficult top British company to manage. The culture had to be changed to cope with constant regulatory blitzes, massive price and cost cuts and competition in the household market. British Gas is having to develop overseas contracts and exploration and production business to fill the gaps. A layer of outsiders is being recruited, exposing the relatively low pay typical of a privatised utility.

Internally, there was a strong case for bringing rewards into line with other big companies, and tailoring incentives to returns to shareholders.

When workers are being exhorted to keep pay down, and many are losing their jobs, such changes also clash head on with public opinion. Board remuneration committees urged by the Cadbury code are stuffed with highly paid executives from other companies. Comparability ratchets pay levels up; high rates at other companies, such as Mr Giordano's BOC, are not brought down to the level of privatised groups. As American experience shows, this upward spiral knows no limits. Boardroom rewards even become seen as evidence of management quality. High rewards are typically backed by a safety net of rolling contracts — now down to two years at British Gas.

Privatised utilities are more politically exposed than other companies, but also best placed to test what is acceptable. The unsung armies of ordinary folk on their share registers could be polled on sensitive issues. Hardly any bother. By failing to take small shareholders with them, utilities have changed the climate of opinion on high rewards everywhere.

A year ago, levying a new 50 per cent income tax rate on top earnings would have been unthinkable in the Conservative party. Now there is a lively mental debate between instincts and the power of the postbag. Only though taxation can the Prime Minister counter deafness to his ever more pathetic calls for top pay restraint. Don't be too surprised if the Chancellor tightens the regime for share options as a halfway house.

Bouncing back into the black

☐ THE two most despised planks of recent Government economic policy are, ironically, paying rich dividends. Between them, sterling's failure to be a good member of the exchange-rate mechanism and the massive increase in taxation needed to restore the public finances are likely to deliver the unlikely prize

PENNINGTON



of a British current account surplus — and soon.

British shoppers, usually feverish consumers of foreign goods as soon as the ravages of recession recede, are far less able to store up trouble on the trade account this time around. Their purses are locked in a pincer movement between low wage rises and higher taxes. The devalued pound has moved those idols of consumer desire, fast cars and flashy electronics, beyond the consumers' reach.

Sterling's devaluation has not only delivered a boom in exports but has also failed to ignite higher inflation. Indeed, it is now clear, as the National Institute of Economic and Social Research pointed out yesterday, that the terms of trade have even improved since sterling's rapid drop.

In the months after the pound exited the ERM, there were dire warnings that British exporters must keep their prices competitive and gain market share. In the event, they appear to have been able to do both and, with European economies recovering much more robustly than expected, that can only continue.

The notion of a current account moving into surplus, which seemed an impossible dream only a few months ago, is now widely supported. The London Business School, delivering its forecast early this month, is looking for a fall in the current account deficit to £2.4 billion next year, £1.4 billion in 1996, turning to surplus the year afterwards.

The National Institute is less optimistic, predicting a deficit of nearly £6 billion in 1995. Nevertheless, this, as it describes, is so small a proportion of the total economy that it counts as virtual balance.

But both venerable institutions, with their rather inelastic models, are still probably too pessimistic. City economists are already predicting surplus next year.

Undoing the Gridlock

☐ GETTING the regional electricity companies to agree on next year's National Grid flotation was always a little like keeping 12 kittens in one basket — throw one back in and another jumps out. But there are signs of unanimity at last, which should please the two million or so remaining shareholders who can look forward to something for nothing next spring.

Although National Grid did let slip its strong opposition to the sell-off of the pumped storage activities, the management had precious little to say about the float yesterday, which is no surprise because the Grid board are very much junior parties in talks between the Government, with its controlling share, and the 12 regional electricity companies. The numbers are becoming clearer — £1 billion of debt injected to boost proceeds of sale and dissuade the Grid management from acting in too flighty a manner in their new-found freedom, the same to the Exchequer in tax revenues and perhaps £250 million as a sop to the customers. This is just £10 apiece, hardly enough to warm many shivering grannies, but it is vital for the Government which needs to win some belated political capital from the Grid sale.

Whitehall is also keen to avoid embarrasing salary increases, or at least ensure they only take place once the Grid is beyond its control, the trick managed by Lord Wakeham when the industry was privatised four years ago. The RECs are in broad agreement to award the Grid shares direct to their shareholders, and the debate is now over the precise mechanics of this.

All-action market

☐ ALARMING times for share chartists, who have been predicting that the FT-SE 100 share index must soon break out of its ever-narrowing range. A week ago, prices look poised to break sharply upwards. A few danger signals from Wall Street and the index looks poised to tumble down. In City dealing rooms, spirits are so dull that few expect the market to go anywhere. Faint hearts could try the lottery.

Courtaulds opts to site £90m plant in Britain

By Susan Gilchrist

COURTAULDS, the chemicals group, yesterday announced the creation of about 120 jobs with the opening of a £90 million plant at Grimsby to produce the company's revolutionary Tencel fibre.

The plant is due to start producing Tencel, a fibre pioneered by Courtaulds and used in clothing and industrial applications, early in 1997.

Grimsby narrowly beat eastern Germany as the choice of site for the plant. Stjko Huismans, chief executive of Courtaulds, said that Germany had been the front-runner until the Department of Trade and Industry agreed to provide a £10 million grant to help to fund the project. "It was a close-run thing," he said. "The final decision was only made at noon on Tuesday."

Courtaulds opened its first Tencel plant in the US in 1992 and a second US site is due to come on stream next year. The group expects Tencel to produce annual sales of £450 million by the end of the decade.

News of the development accompanied Courtaulds' results for the half year to September 30, which showed a 6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits before exceptional items to £80.1 million, from £75.8 million. Including exceptional items, pre-tax profits fell by 16 per cent and earnings per share slipped to 15p, from 19.5p.

Mr Huismans said that profits had been held back by considerable cost pressures after steep increases in prices of key raw materials. The costs of materials used in making viscose and acrylic, core products for Courtaulds, have risen by by more than 30 per cent.

Mr Huismans said that he was confident that the group could push through increases in selling prices to its customers from January 1 to recoup higher raw material costs. However, he admitted that the group faced an uncomfortable period until rises took effect.

Cost pressures were particularly evident in the first half in the Americas, where operating profit fell to £25 million, from £34 million. European operations performed well lifting profits to £49 million (£42 million). The Asia-Pacific business made profits of £12 million (£10 million).

Mr Huismans said that Tencel is expected to contribute to group profits in the second half in spite of development costs of more than £50 million so far.

An interim dividend of 4.15p (4p) is due on January 24.



Huismans: new fibre

Tempus, page 28

Fleming issues profit warning

By Robert Miller

ROBERT Fleming, the merchant bank, yesterday issued a second-half profits warning after volatile and quiet worldwide stock market trading activity led to a fall in profits in its investment banking division.

John Manser, chief executive, declined to speculate on whether some executives could still expect a bonus-and-pay package of more than £1 million, earned by three in 1993.

Losses from securities trading were much less than they might have been if the bank had bond-market exposure.

Pre-tax profits from Fleming's investment banking in the half year to September 30 were £48.8 million, against £49.7 million previously.

Mr Manser said: "Prospects for the second half ... are uncertain, given the decline in activity in financial markets, and it will be difficult to match the results for the comparable period last year."

The fall in profits in the banking division was more than offset by growth in the investment management business, whose profits rose to £48.6 million, from £41.9 million, lifting the merchant bank's overall profitability by 6.3 per cent, to £97.4 million.

There is a 6.5p interim dividend (5p). Earnings per share, adjusted, rose to 44.7p, against 41.1p.

Total funds under management increased from £49.2 billion to £50.2 billion.

Asprey tries to calm investors

By Susan Gilchrist

ASPREY, the upmarket jewellery group, yesterday sought to reassure investors about its financial health by maintaining its interim dividend despite a sharp slump in profits.

Pre-tax profits fell to £3 million in the six months to September 30 from £12.2 million in the corresponding period for 1993. The fall was not as bad as had been feared when Asprey warned in September that it would be only marginally profitable in the first half. Earnings per share slid to 0.14p from 8.04p

Naim Attallah, Asprey's chief executive, said the decision to hold the interim dividend at 1.25p demonstrated the board's confidence.

Concern about Asprey's financial position intensified earlier this month when a Sunday newspaper alleged the group was under pressure from its bankers. Yesterday Mr Attallah again dismissed the story and said the group had issued a writ against the newspaper earlier this week.

Mr Attallah blamed the downturn in profits on lower spending by wealthy overseas customers, particularly those from the Middle East. However, he said the group was concentrating on attracting customers from the Far East. Trading had improved in September and Octoberand shareholders will receive the interim payout on January 27.

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Wellcome 'backed on AZT rights'

By Martin Barrow

WELLCOME, the British pharmaceuticals company, said that the US Court of Appeals backed its patents on Retrovir, or AZT, its HIV treatment drug, against two generic drug manufacturers.

The decision upheld a district court ruling in 1993 in favour of Wellcome's US subsidiary, Burroughs Wellcome, and prohibits Barr Laboratories Inc and Novopharm Inc from making or selling the drug until 2005, when the patents expire.

Wellcome said that the court had held that five Wellcome scientists were correctly named as the inventors on five of six disputed patents, and had backed a trial court finding that two US National Institute of Health scientists were not.

A question of fact remained on one patent, and the court had said that Novopharm should be allowed to present evidence on one patent at trial court level, although it had "expressed its scepticism that Novopharm could prevail on this issue", Wellcome said.

Top jobs at BTR are reshuffled

By Martin Waller

BOB Faircloth, the chief operating officer of BTR, is taking early retirement after failing to gain the top job at the industrial conglomerate.

Mr Faircloth, aged 57, is a year younger than Alan Jackson, the chief executive. He is believed to have decided to return to his native America to try his luck there after concluding that he was unlikely ever to become chief executive.

A spokesman for the company said there was no question of a compensation payment for loss of office. Mr Faircloth will cease to be chief operating officer from January 1 but will then work on unspecified "special assignments" for BTR until next March, when he retires but continues as a non-executive director.

The reorganisation greatly increases the chances of Kathleen O'Donovan, BTR's 38-year-old finance director, succeeding Mr Jackson when he retires and becoming the first woman to head a substantial British corporation.

STOCK MARKET  PHILIP PANGALOS

Wall Street slump gives London a hangover

Dealers' screens turned red in London yesterday as equities were marked sharply lower after New York stocks made another negative start following Wall Street's 91-point overnight tumble.

The dive in London cast a shadow over other world stock markets as investors followed New York's lead by switching out of equities into higher yielding bonds. Yield attractions ensured that UK gilts again bucked the gloomy trend, with gains stretching to £¾ for longer dated issues.

Leading shares had one of their worst sessions of the year as fears of fresh falls in America saw the FT-SE 100 index tumble by 68.6 points to 3,010.1 at one stage, before recovering slightly.

Volumes were relatively thin, with most falls due to a widespread markdown in response to lower futures, which, in turn, dragged the cash market down.

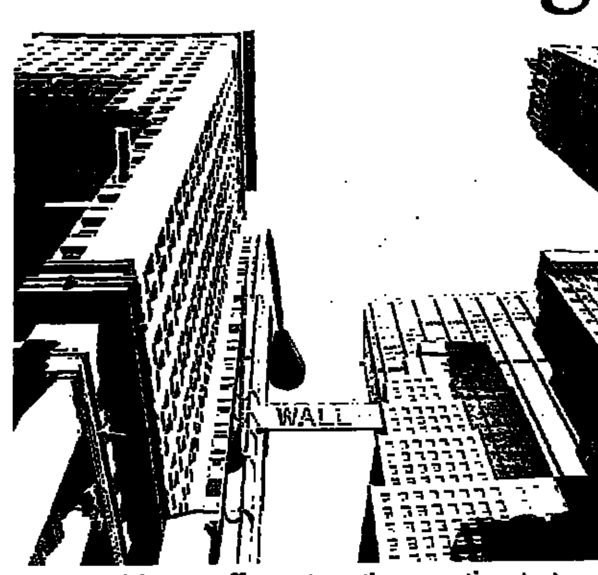
Traders' nerves were unsettled by reports that NatWest had bought 17,000 FT-SE 100 put-options, although there was evidence of buying interest at lower levels, prompting a rally.

Sentiment in London was further unsettled by another negative start to trading on Wall Street, with American markets closed today for the Thanksgiving holiday. Some dealers said that the Dow's recent slide meant there was potential for a sharp short-covering rebound at some stage in the near future.

The FT-SE 100 index closed down 51.2 points at 3,027.5, its biggest one-day fall since a 65-point slide on June 24. The index has now lost 119 points since last Wednesday.

Volume reached 650 million shares as some institutional investors switched into bonds. International shares and leaders were hardest hit, with widespread losses as only a handful of stocks resisted the negative trend.

British Aerospace was a rare blue spot among the leaders on the largely red City dealing screens. It shook off the market's gloom in spite of an announcement that it is to cut 750 jobs from its Airbus division next year. The shares advanced 5p to 434p ex-rights, on heavy volume of 6.23 million shares traded, amid reports of active buying by Salomon Brothers. British Aerospace was also boosted by orders for the BAe 146 jet. The only other gainers among the top 100 were **Argyll**, up 2p at 266½p, and **TSB**, up ½p at 219½p.


Wall Street suffers yet another negative start

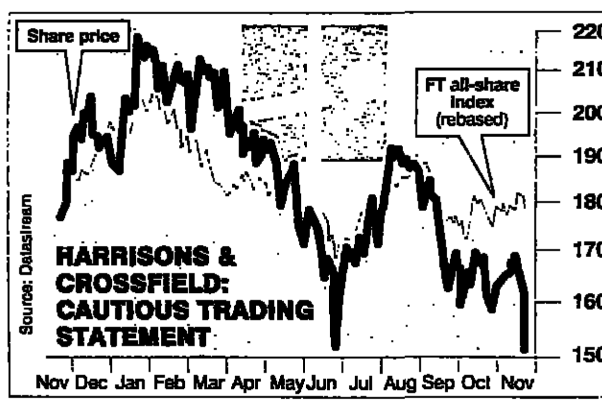
On the defence takeover battlefront, speculators still await an increased knockout bid by **GEC**, off 5½p at 275½p, for **VSEL**, the Trident submarine builder, 18p lower at £14.85. Among other leaders, **Bowater** was hardest hit after 9p to £10.91, **HSBC** 16½p to 706½p, and **RTZ** 16p to 829p. **GRE** lost 7p to 183p, depressed after Hoare Govett changed its recommendation from hold to sell. Hoare also changed its stance on **Sun Alliance**, down 10p to 317p, from a hold to overvalued.

Harrisons & Crosfield, the timber to chemicals group, down 13p to 149p, took a

Property stocks were unsettled as NatWest Securities told clients the sector could underperform. It said news that George Soros' Quantum fund is to exit property surprised the market and reinforced its stance. Hammerson fell 5p to 331p, British Land 5p to 378p, Land Securities 5p to 595p and MEPC 5p to 395p.

Tuesday's presentation at Hoare Govett. The shares fell to 438p, before a partial recovery to 447p, down 23p, as Hoare said that rising raw material costs would take their toll on profits. Elsewhere, **Vodafone** fell 8½p to 195½p, **BTR** 12p to 284p, **Cable and Wireless** 15p to 370p, and **Arjo Wiggins** 10½p to 266½p.

Among international stocks, **ICI** fell 15p to 746p. **Unilever** battering, losing more than 8 per cent of its market value after a cautious trading statement. The company has already said that this year's results will be affected by disposals. Some operations have performed below expectations in the second half and rationalisation charges of about £10 million will dent the final results. **Thorn EMI** held steady at 973p in spite of



James Capel downgrading its recommendation to a hold.

Elsewhere, **SmithKline Beecham A** shares eased 2p to 421p on the news that it was selling its animal health business to Pfizer, of America, for $1.45 billion. Analysts said that the sale could cut SB's current gearing levels of about 250 per cent to more reasonable levels. Further disposals may also be on the cards.

Courtaulds slid 15p to 425p as the company accompanied slightly higher pre-exceptional profits with cautious noises about rising raw material costs.

Tate & Lyle dipped 9p to 430p in spite of accompanying a 23 per cent rise in annual profits with positive comment on current year trading. Credit Lyonnais Laing and Hoare Govett are said to be bullish on the stock.

BT, depressed that superhighway development plans have been dropped, fell 10p to 369p, on heavy volume of 14.8 million shares traded.

Shares in **The Telegraph** eased 2p to 346p on news that its parent,, Hollinger, the Canadian publishing group controlled by Conrad Black, had bought a further 85,000 shares in the UK newspaper group through Panmure Gordon at 346p per share, lifting its stake to 58.3 per cent. Hollinger bought 400,000 shares through Panmure last Friday at prices of 347p and 348p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Government stocks enjoyed a positive start, with gilts opening higher in response to Tuesday evening's evidence in the US of switching from equities into treasuries. Sentiment was further helped by good German monetary statistics and US durable goods figures. Strong demand ensured that the remaining three new tap issues were exhausted.

The December series of the long gilt advanced 21 ticks to £103 7/32, on active volume of 71,000 contracts traded. Among cash stocks, gains stretched to £¾ among longer dated issues, with gains of up to £⅜ for index-linked and shorter dated stocks.

☐ **NEW YORK**: American blue chips were near their lows at midday as investors worried that an eagerly anticipated bounce might be put off until tommorrow, analysts said. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 20.52 points at 3,657.47. US Treasuries were firm.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	3657.47 (-20.52)
S&P Composite	446.18 (-3.90)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	Closed

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	8576.03 (-372.40)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	402.00 (-4.44)

Sydney:

AO	1657.1 (-20.6)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2033.31 (-41.46)

Singapore:

Straits	2217.81 (-52.24)

Brussels:

General	7166.16 (-9.54)

Paris:

CAC-40	1893.09 (-18.32)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	642.40 (-9.30)

London:

FT 30	2323.8 (-45.3)
FT 100	3027.5 (-51.2)
FT-SE Mid 250	3488.8 (-56.5)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1313.33 (-18.60)
FT A All-Share	1507.68 (-24.64)
FT Non Financials	1629.14 (-25.96)
FT Gold Mines	238.0 (-9.5)
FT Fixed Interest	108.68 (+0.35)
FT Govt Secs	92.37 (+0.51)
Bargains	23712
SEAQ Volume	650.2m
USM (Datastrm)	153.72 (+1.50)
US$	1.5703 (-0.0002)
German Mark	2.4398 (-0.0003)
Exchange Index	79.9 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2750
£:SDR	1.0706
RPI	145.2 Oct (2.4%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Latin Am	84	-2
Abtrust Latin Wts	48	-2
Adare Prntg	189	-1
BZW Commodities (100)	85½	-1½
BZW Commodities Wts	37	-2
Calluna	87	-5
Churchill China (280)	285	...
Fidelity Spec V Uts	485	-6
Filtronic Comtek	153	-3
Finsby Sml Cos C (100)	100	...
For & Col Emrg C (100)	99¼	+¼
Hambros Sml Asian	54	-1
Hambros Smlr As Wts	24	-1
H Gov 1000 Inv (100)	101	...
INVESCO Korea C	97	-1
Irish Permanent (180)	217	-3
JJB Sports (215)	231	-1
Prolific Inc A/L	476	-6
SeaPerfect (120)	129	-2
Servisair (135)	150	-5
TLG (115)	124	-2
Tele-Cine Cell (170)	165	...
Whitchurch	60	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Apollo Metals n/p (77)	2	...
Kenwood App n/p (310)	19	-5
Laird Group n/p (295)	37	...
Martin Int n/p (27)	3	...
OMI n/p (37)	3	-1½
Pressac n/p (85)	6	-1
Seton Health n/p (285)	43	-10

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

British Aerospace	434p (+5p)

FALLS:

Kleinwort Benson	478p (-15p)
SG Warburg	651p (-24p)
Wellcome	670p (-11p)
Bowater	447p (-23p)
J Waddington	222p (-13p)
Courtaulds	425p (-15p)
ICI	746p (-15p)
ADT	685p (-18p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Grand Granada

THERE were not many areas of blue on the trading screens yesterday but one of them was Granada, at least for much of the day. Full-year figures showed strong progress on all fronts, although much of it came from the addition of LWT, the London weekend operator.

The Unilever dispute, however, left advertising revenues at Granada's original TV franchise a percentage point lower and probably clipped profits by as much as £5 million, so it is as well that the saga is now as good as resolved, with a fresh three-year contract set to be signed shortly.

Although Granada's electrical appliance rental base fell 6 per cent, in contrast to that of Thorn earlier this week, the rate of decline was slowing and an increase in market share erased fears that the business is in decline. With turnover growth at the leisure division's motorway sites running into double figures in all sectors save petrol, and margins enhanced at the Sutcliffe catering operation, there is not a weak performer in the group. The shares sell on a reasonable 14 times forecast earnings, but the market's main focus is on what Granada will do next.

Gerry Robinson says he is becoming almost paranoid about being pushed by the market into a purchase, but the group's strong cash flow will put pressure on the management for some sort of positive move. On some estimates, Granada could be cash-positive by the end of 1996 even without the outright sale of its BSkyB stake. Mr Robinson clearly rues the failure to buy Gardner Merchant this summer, and the vendors too might shed a tear as they consider their unsteady progress towards the stock market since.

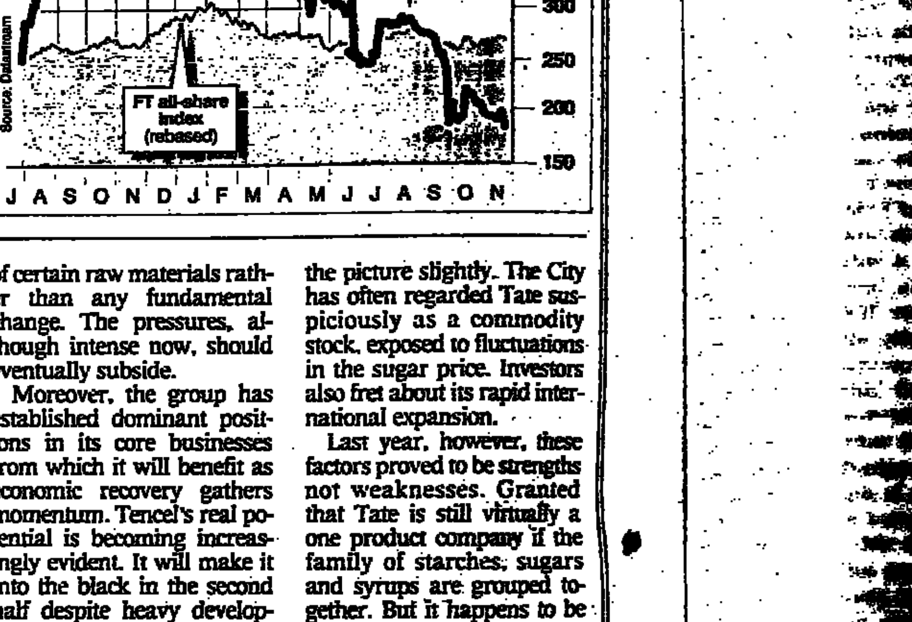
ShareLink

SHARELINK wisely gave the market a profit warning last September, but the downturn in trading does not look any more attractive in print. The contrast between the figures is extreme. In 1993, the bull market encouraged private investors to pour into the market and trading volumes were further enlarged during the BT3 issue. This year, the turn in the market has sent investors running for cover, leaving ShareLink's phones idle. The bottom line could not cope with the fall in business and a £700,000 development spending bill.

ShareLink's problem is that the bear market arrived too early. It has been striving to diversify into less cyclical businesses than equity sales, such as personal equity plan and portfolio management. Although the launches of these have gone well, their revenues are still too small to make any impact in relation to the core business.

To reduce its cyclicality, ShareLink needs to introduce new products to its customer base. One possibility is mortgages, which the company could sell together with a Pep or equity portfolio as the repayment vehicle.

Until then, the shares are destined to be as volatile as the market the company operates in. Unless trading conditions worsen ShareLink should be able to turn a small profit at the year end. Until trading improves, the shares are underpinned by a 6.4 per cent yield and the chance of a bid.



Courtaulds

THE biggest uncertainty facing Courtaulds in recent months has whether it could pass on the latest raw material price increases to its customers and how much would it be forced to absorb. Yesterday's interim results make it clear that it is bearing much of the pain itself and will probably do so until the beginning of next year.

Although the group has said it will implement big price increases from January 1, these will take time to filter through. Margins will remain under pressure for much of the second half given that some costs have increased by 30 per cent or more. Fortunately, all its rivals are in the same boat and will have to follow suit when it comes to raising prices.

In the longer term, the prospects are more promising. The latest cost increases are probably a temporary rather than a permanent feature reflecting shortages of certain raw materials rather than any fundamental change. The pressures, although intense now, should eventually subside.

Moreover, the group has established dominant positions in its core businesses from which it will benefit as economic recovery gathers momentum. Tencel's real potential is becoming increasingly evident. It will make it into the black in the second half despite heavy development costs.

However, the continuing uncertainty over cost pressures will probably cast a cloud over the shares in the short term and they are unlikely to make much progress.

Tate & Lyle

THE food manufacturing sector has been short of good news recently, apart from Cadbury Schweppes' winning lottery ticket. It took Tate and millions of cola-guzzling Americans to sweeten the picture slightly. The City has often regarded Tate suspiciously as a commodity stock, exposed to fluctuations in the sugar price. Investors also fret about its rapid international expansion.

Last year, however, these factors proved to be strengths not weaknesses. Granted that Tate is still virtually a one product company if the family of starches, sugars and syrups are grouped together. But it happens to be one of the fastest growing foodstuffs in the world thanks to mankind's insatiable sweet tooth. Meanwhile, Tate's international portfolio allowed it to remain aloof form the margin struggles between manufacturers and the supermarkets that have dominated the food industry in Britain. Tate's gearing remains high, but the shares, which are trading on only ten times current year earnings forecasts, do not look expensive.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	976-975	Mar	1044-1042
Mar	991-990	May	1055-1054
May	995-994	Jul	1066-1062
Jul	1005-1004	Sep	1074-1071
Sep	1012-1011		
Dec	1026-1025	Volume: 3775	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Nov	2865-2835	Jul	2830-2820
Jan	2875-2870	Sep	2790-2770
Mar	2855-2850	Nov	2780-2760
May	2835-2830	Volume: 6537	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	357.9-56.7
Spot: 412.00		Dec	356.9-53.7
Mar	400.2-99.5	Mar	356.9-53.2
May	395.0-94.1	May	356.3-51.2
Aug	385.4-84.6	Volume: 1529	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 22

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	76.33	107.10	115.61
(+/-)	-0.40	+3.03	+0.22
Eng/Wales	76.42	107.55	113.12
(+/-)	-0.29	+3.50	-0.20
(%)	+5.0	+8.0	-5.0
Scotland	75.42	105.35	124.63
(+/-)	-1.47	+1.21	+1.08
(%)	+21.0	+9.0	+3.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.15	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Jan)	17.05	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Feb)	16.90	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	18.05	+0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.05	+0.40

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 170 (-6)	O: 171 (-7)
Gasoil EEC	151 (+2)	154 (+2)
Non EEC 1H Dec	152 (+3)	154 (+2)
Non EEC 1H Jan	155 (+3)	157 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	106 (n/c)	107 (n/c)
Naphtha	182 (+2)	184 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	151.50-51.75	Mar	156.00-56.25
Jan	154.00-54.25	Apr	154.50-54.75
Feb	155.50-55.75		Vol: 19824

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	17.04-17.05	Apr	16.74 SLR
Feb	16.91-16.92	May	16.68 BID
Mar	16.77-16.80		Vol: 44323

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)

Nov	104.30
Jan	106.00
Mar	107.95
May	110.00
Jul	111.70
Volume: 363	

BARLEY (close £/t)

Nov	101.10
Jan	103.10
Mar	105.25
May	107.40
Sep	93.50
Volume: 25	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	unq
Apr	275.0	271.50
May	unq	287.50
		Volume: 92

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Dec 81.50-82.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Nov 94	1899	1898	1891
Dec 94	1915	1900	1908
Jan 95	1821	1805	1811
Apr 95	1721	1720	1719
Vol: 124 lots		Open Interest: 2924	

Index 1884 +8

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2776.0-2777.0	2767.0-2768.0	1352250
Lead ($/tonne)	660.00-661.00	678.50-679.00	146025
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1135.5-1136.0	1162.0-1162.5	551125
Tin ($/tonne)	6120.0-6130.0	6210.0-6220.0	24175
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1950.0-1951.0	1955.0-1955.5	1735600
Nickel ($/tonne)	7589.0-7590.0	7710.0-7715.0	76296

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Allid Dom.	550	31	42½	50	10	17½	27½
(*574)	600	7½	19	25½	38½	44½	55½
Argyll	260	12½	22½	27½	8½	14½	20
(*266½)	280	4½	13	18	20½	25½	31½
ASDA	60	6½	9	10	1½	3½	4
(*65)	70	1½	4	5	6½	8½	9
Boots	500	19½	32½	40½	14½	20½	27½
(*501)	550	3½	12½	19½	50	52	58½
Br Airways	360	22½	34	41½	10	16½	24½
(*374)	390	8½	20½	27½	26½	33	40½
BP	390	29	37	43½	5	12	16
(*410½)	420	11	20	27½	17½	25½	30
Br Steel	140	15	20	23	2	5	7
(*152)	160	4	9	12½	11½	14	16
C & W	360	20½	33½	39½	13	20	24½
(*369)	390	9	20½	25½	29½	37	41
CU	493	36½	43½	—	6½	20	—
(*518½)	543	10½	18½	—	31½	48	—
ICI	700	58	68½	78½	5½	21	27½
(*745½)	750	25½	36	50	27½	44	51
Kingfishr	460	23½	36	41½	14	22	32
(*464)	500	8	19½	24½	38½	45½	55½
Land Sec	550	46½	56	63	3	7½	15½
(*596)	600	13	25½	32½	20½	25½	39
M & S	390	24	35	40½	5½	9½	16½
(*406)	420	8	19	24½	19½	23½	31
Nat West	500	21	32½	42½	16	33½	39
(*503½)	550	4½	14	23	50½	67½	71
Sainsbury	390	24½	37	43½	9	14½	21½
(*405½)	420	9	21	28½	22½	30	36½
Shell	650	49½	57½	64	3½	13½	17½
(*690½)	700	16	26½	35	21	30½	40½
Smkl Bch	420	17	28½	36½	13½	24	29½
(*420)	460	4½	13	20½	42½	48½	53½
Storehse	200	21½	26	30	2½	4½	7½
(*219)	220	8½	14	18	9½	12	16½
Trafalgar	80	4½	6½	9½	4½	7	8
(*80)	90	1½	3	5½	11½	13	14
Unilever	1050	60	77½	89	9½	25½	37
(*1090)	1100	29½	48	61	28	49	60½
Zeneca	800	60	73½	83	8	24	31
(*845)	850	28½	43	55½	26	47	54
	Series	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**
Grand Met.	390	3½	20	27	0	19½	23
(*393½)	420	0	9	15	26½	30½	41½
Ladbroke	140	15½	20½	24	0	2½	6½
(*155½)	160	0	9	13	4½	9½	16½
Utd Bisc	300	17½	26½	33	0	5	13
(*317½)	330	0	10	17½	12½	18½	29½

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	475	29½	38½	—	6½	11	—
(*492)	500	12	24	31	17	22	27½
Thames W	460	31½	45½	53	7	13	23
(*481)	500	11½	22	32	25½	32	44
	Series	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**
BAT Ind	430	14	35	41½	0	10	22
(*434)	460	0	15	21½	21	30	44
BTR	280	4½	18	22½	0	9½	16
(*284½)	300	0	10½	13½	15½	20½	27½
Br Aero	420	25	44½	53	0	13	22½
(*434)	448	0	23	34½	14	31	42½
Br Telem	360	8½	17½	25½	0	12	16½
(*368½)	390	0	6	13	21½	31½	34½
Cadbury	420	13	27½	33½	0	8½	18½
(*433)	460	0	9	15	27	30½	42
Guinness	420	36	44½	51½	0	3	10
(*456)	460	0	17½	26	4	15½	26½
GEC	260	14½	19½	24½	0	5	7½
(*274½)	280	0	9	15½	5½	14½	17½
Hanson	220	8	13	17	0	6½	11
(*228)	240	0	4½	8	12	18	22
LASMO	134	12	—	—	0	—	—
(*146)	154	0	—	—	8	—	—
Lucas	200	1	12½	17½	0	9½	14
(*201)	220	0	5	9½	19	22	25½
Pilkingtn	160	19½	21½	25	0	1½	3
(*179½)	180	0	8½	13	0½	8	10
Prudential	300	10	21½	26	0	7½	15½
(*310)	330	0	7½	11½	20	24	33
Redland	460	3½	26	34	0	17½	32½
(*463½)	500	0	10½	17½	36½	42	59
Royal Ins	290	4	21	26½	0	13	19½
(*284)	300	0	12	18	16	24	31½
Tesco	240	0	12	17½	0	9	15
(*240)	260	0	4½	9	20	22	25
Vodafone	183	13	19	—	0	—	—
(*196)	200	0	10	14½	4	12	16
Williams	325	19½	—	—	0	—	—
(*344½)	354	0	—	—	9½	—	—

FT-SE INDEX (*3026)

	2900	2950	3000	3050	3100	3150
Calls						
Dec	149½	112½	79	51½	31	18
Jan	182½	146½	116½	86	65	44½
Feb	197½	162½	133½	104	82½	61
Mar	212	181	151	122½	100½	79½
Jun	246½	—	186	—	137½	—
Puts						
Dec	25½	35	52½	76½	109½	146
Jan	47½	62	82	104	134	166
Feb	55½	71	91½	115	141½	172½
Mar	78	95½	115½	141	166	194½
Jun	93	—	132½	—	184½	—

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Abby Nat	390	19½	30½	35½	5	17	25
(*403)	420	5	15	21	20	34	40
Amstrad	25	5	6	6½	0½	1½	1½
(*29½)	30	1½	3	4	2	3½	4
Barclays	550	37	52	59	4	17	24
(*580)	600	8½	25	34	25½	42½	50
Blue Circ	280	18½	27½	32½	3½	9½	16
(*293½)	300	7½	16½	22	12½	16½	26½
Br Gas	280	17	26	32	2	6	12½
(*294½)	300	5	14	21	9	14½	23½
Dixons	180	10½	16½	22	4½	9½	14½
(*184½)	200	3	9	15	17	21½	26
Forte	220	9½	17½	21	4½	9½	14½
(*225)	240	1½	8½	11½	16½	19½	26
Hillsdwn	160	13	17	20	1	4½	9
(*170½)	180	2½	6½	10	10½	14	19½
Lonrho	140	17	20½	25	1	5	7½
(*155½)	160	4½	9½	14½	8½	13½	17
Sears	100	6½	9½	11½	1½	5	7½
(*103½)	110	2	4½	6½	7	9	12
Thrn Eml	950	32½	51½	75	13½	25	36
(*970)	1000	9½	28	48½	43	52½	62
Tomkins	220	7½	14½	20½	5½	11½	14½
(*222)	240	1	6½	12	19	23½	26½
TSB	200	21	25	28	0½	5½	5½
(*219½)	220	7	12½	16½	6	14	17½
Wellcome	650	36	58	74	12	28	42½
(*671)	700	11	34½	50	38	57½	68½
	Series	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Glaxo	600	36	51	65	16	32	41½
(*615)	650	13½	27½	42½	44	61	[illegible]
HSBC	700	36	52½	63½	22½	47	55
(*707)	750	14½	30½	43	52	77½	85½
Reuter	460	23	34	44	12½	24	29½
(*466½)	500	7½	17	26½	37½	47	52
	Series	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**
P Force	160	16	21	24½	0	3	7
(*176)	180	0	9	13	4	11	16
	Series	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Fisons	120	7½	15	18	5	10	11½
(*122½)	130	3½	10½	13½	10½	15	17
	Series	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**
Eastern Gp	800	4	41½	59½	0	43	56
(*801½)	850	0	21	38	48½	73	44½
	Series	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Natl Pwr	460	38	50	61	2½	11	15½
(*497½)	500	9	26½	38	16½	27	36
Scot Pwr	330	29½	36½	46	3	11	16½
(*355)	360	10½	19½	31	13½	24½	30½

November 23, 1994 Tot: 30447 Call: 25680 Put: 5526 FT-SE Call: 10466 Put: 36422

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Dec 94	3045.0	3048.0	3005.0	3024.0	20543
Previous open interest: 60265	Mar 95	3045.0	3050.0	3034.0	3039.0	974
FT-SE250	Dec 94	3500.0	3500.0	3500.0	3486.0	175
Previous open interest: 4165	Mar 95	3537.0	3537.0	3537.0	3522.5	275
Three Month Sterling	Dec 94	93.78	93.82	93.76	93.79	24194
Previous open interest: 517755	Mar 95	93.03	93.11	93.03	93.09	39795
	Jun 95	92.46	92.52	92.44	92.50	7632
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 94	93.93	93.93	93.93	93.96	6
Previous open interest: 4653	Mar 95				93.40	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 94	94.84	94.85	94.84	94.85	15434
Previous open interest: 721331	Mar 95	94.72	94.73	94.70	94.72	40968
Long Gilt	Dec 94	102-30	103-15	102-30	103-07	71245
Previous open interest: 118963	Mar 95	102-11	103-21	102-10	102-17	12995
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 94	108.68	108.77	108.66	108.72	705
	Mar 95	107.84	108.10	107.84	108.00	2526
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 94	90.98	91.10	90.77	90.90	170262
Previous open interest: 210854	Mar 95	90.15	90.28	89.98	90.13	19197
Three month ECU	Dec 94	94.12	94.14	94.10	94.12	845
Previous open interest: 24142	Mar 95	93.77	93.83	93.76	93.80	952
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 94	96.01	96.02	95.98	96.01	1524
Previous open interest: 48337	Mar 95	95.73	95.74	95.70	95.71	3624
Italian Govmt Bond	Dec 94	100.40	100.60	100.18	100.44	24981
Previous open interest: 64265	Mar 95	99.30	99.35	99.09	99.30	1351

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¾ Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 4½ Low 3½ Week fixed: 5
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5 9/16 : 3 mth 5 11/16 . Sell: 2 mth 5½ : 3 mth: 5⅝ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5¾-5⅝	5⅞-5¾	5 15/16-5 13/16	6¼-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	5 13/16-5¾	5⅞-5¾	6-5⅞	6½-6⅜	7⅛-7¼
Interbank:	5⅞-5½	5 15/16-5¾	6-5⅞	6½-6⅜	7⅛-7¼

Overnight: open 5 . close 3½

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5¾	n/a	5 15/16	6¼	7¼
Sterling CDs:	5 13/16-5¾	5⅞-5 13/16	5 15/16-5 13/16	6⅜-6¼	7 1/16-6 15/16
Dollar CDs:	5.50-5.47	n/a	5.55-5.82	6.21-6.18	6.87-6.84
Building Society CDs:	5⅞-5¾	5⅞-5¾	6-5⅞	6½-6⅜	7¼-7⅛

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day Oct 31, 1994 Agreed rates Nov 26, 1994 to Dec 25, 1994 Scheme III: 7.23%. Reference rate Oct 1, 1994 to Oct 31, 1994 Scheme IV & V: 5.969%

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5½-5	5⅞-5¾	5 13/16-5 11/16	6 5/16-6 3/16	5¼-4¾
Deutschemark:	5-4¾	5-4 15/16	5 3/16-5 1/16	5 7/16-5 5/16	5-4
French Franc:	5½-5¼	5½-5⅜	5⅝-5½	5 15/16-5 13/16	5¼-4¾
Swiss Franc:	3⅞-3¾	3⅞-3¾	3 15/16-3 13/16	4⅛-4 1/16	4¼-3¾
Yen:	2¼-2⅛	2¼-2⅛	2⅜-2¼	2½-2⅜	2¼-1¾

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $384.30-384.70 **Close:** $384.50-385.30 **High:** $385.20-385.70
Low: $383.00-383.50 **AM:** $384.50 **PM:** $384.70

Krugerrand: $384.50-386.50 (£244.50-246.50)

Platinum: $412.50 (£261.90) **Silver:** $5.19 (£3.305) **Palladium:** $155.00 (£98.40)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 23	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.7304-2.7355	2.7321-2.7355	⅛pr-par	⅜-⅛pr
Brussels	50.09-50.31	50.09-50.27	4-1pr	14-8pr
Copenhagen	9.5460-9.5730	9.5580-9.5730	⅛-¼ds	⅛-⅛ds
Dublin	1.0102-1.0152	1.0102-1.0129	1pr-2ds	4pr-par
Frankfurt	2.4359-2.4416	2.4372-2.4404	⅛pr-par	⅜-⅛pr
Lisbon	248.32-249.33	248.32-249.23	78-67ds	243-260ds
Madrid	203.11-203.92	203.11-203.78	33-41ds	96-109ds
Milan	2516.30-2525.30	2518.30-2521.60	6-7ds	16-19ds
Montreal	2.1563-2.1672	2.1583-2.1614	0.07-0.02pr	0.14-0.01pr
New York	1.5720-1.5754	1.5720-1.5730	par-0.01ds	0.02pr-par
Oslo	10.6630-10.6910	10.6750-10.6910	⅛-1⅛ds	2⅛-3⅛ds
Paris	8.3660-8.3840	8.3700-8.3840	⅛pr-par	1-⅛pr
Stockholm	11.5600-11.6160	11.5890-11.6130	1⅛-2⅛ds	5-6⅛ds
Tokyo	154.16-154.63	154.37-154.63	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Vienna	17.14-17.20	17.16-17.20	1⅛-⅛pr	5-3⅛pr
Zurich	2.0627-2.0685	2.0656-2.0685	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-⅛pr

Sources: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3164-1.3173
Austria	10.91-10.92
Belgium (Com)	31.89-31.90
Canada	1.3740-1.3745
Denmark	6.0755-6.0785
France	5.3210-5.3240
Germany	1.5505-1.5510
Hong Kong	7.7315-7.7325
Ireland	1.5540-1.5550
Italy	1602.60-1603.60
Japan	98.06-98.16
Malaysia	2.5537-2.5542
Netherlands	1.7375-1.7380
Norway	6.7865-6.7895
Portugal	158.13-158.23
Singapore	1.4645-1.4655
Spain	129.37-129.42
Sweden	7.3743-7.3818
Switzerland	1.3133-1.3138

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5728-1.5754
Australia dollar	2.0703-2.0727
Bahrain dinar	0.587-0.599
Brazil real*	1.3099-1.3139
Cyprus pound	0.74-0.75
Finland markka	7.387-7.503
Greece drachma	372.0-379.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.1601-12.1694
India rupee	48.89-49.85
Kuwait dinar KD	0.466-0.476
Malaysia ringgit	4.0165-4.0198
Mexico peso	5.35-5.45
New Zealand dollar	2.5266-2.5302
Pakistan rupee	47.781 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8395-5.9655
Singapore dollar	2.3037-2.3063
S Africa rand (fin)	6.4708-6.5222
S Africa rand (com)	5.5536-5.5619
U A E dirham	5.718-5.842

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	559	Legal & Gn	841
ASDA Gp	7,600	Lloyds Bk	3,100
Abbey Natl	2,600	MEPC	2,900
Alld Dom	1,800	Marks Spr	4,600
Argyll Gp	2,600	NatWst Bk	4,700
Arjo Wiggn	4,900	Nat Power	3,300
AB Foods	205	Nth Wst W	371
BAA	3,600	P & O	1,400
BAT Inds	5,100	Pearson	1,200
BOC	1,500	PowerGen	973
BP	11,000	Prudential	4,600
BTR	12,000	RMC	303
BT	14,000	RTZ	3,500
Bk of Scot	1,700	Rank Org	2,800
Barclays	5,000	Reckitt Col	2,900
Bass	1,500	Redland	750
Blue Circle	2,400	Reed Intl	1,400
Boots	3,200	Rentokil	935
Bowater	3,300	Reuters	2,800
Brit Aero	6,200	Rolls Royce	6,700
Brit Airwys	2,800	Ryl Ins	1,800
Brit Gas	9,500	Ryl Bk Scot	5,000
Brit Steel	6,300	Sainsbury	2,100
Burmah Cast	1,100	Schroders	116
Cable Wire	7,000	Scot & New	645
Cadbury	3,900	Scot Power	2,000
Caradon	935	Sears	6,400
Carlton Cms	1,100	Svrn Trent	712
Cm Union	2,100	Shell Trans	4,100
Courtaulds	2,400	Siebe	2,600
De La Rue	366	SmKl Bch	2,500
Eastern Elec	2,500	Smith Nph	2,000
Enterpr Oil	539	Sthrn Elec	860
Forte	1,700	Std Chard	2,700
GKN	653	Sun Allnce	1,400
GRE	1,900	TI Gp	402
GUS	1,100	TSB	4,800
Gen Acc	349	Tesco	3,100
Gen Elec	6,200	Thames W	2,300
Glaxo	6,600	Thrn EMI	944
Granada	4,000	Tomkins	4,400
Grand Met	4,200	Unilever	1,300
Guinness	5,600	Utd Bisc	1,200
HSBC	5,000	Vodafone	10,000
Hanson	10,000	Warburg	1,200
ICI	3,700	Wellcome	4,100
Inchcape	1,900	Whitbread	520
Kingfisher	1,400	Wlms Hld	1,900
Ladbroke	2,600	Wolseley	353
Land Secs	1,100	Zeneca	2,100

WALL STREET

	Nov 23 midday	Nov 22 close
AMP Inc	68	69⅛
AMR Corp	49⅜	51¼
AT & T	50	50⅜
Abbott Labs	31	31¼
Advanced Micro	24⅝	25⅛
Aetna Life	43	43⅜
Ahmanson (HF)	15⅝	15⅝
Air Prod & Chem	43½	44½
Albertson's	29	29⅜
Alcan Aluminm	22⅝	23⅛
Alco Standard	53⅜	53⅜
Allied Signal	30⅞	31
Alum Co of Am	76⅝	80⅛
Amax Gold Inc	6⅛	6⅛
Amerada Hess	45⅛	45⅞
Amer Brands	33⅜	34
Amer El Power	32⅜	32
Amer Express	28⅞	28⅛
Amer Genl Corp	26⅛	26½
Amer Home Pr	64⅛	63¼
Amer Intl	90	89⅝
Amer Stores	26	26½
Ameritech	39⅝	39⅝
Amoco	60	60
Anheuser-Busch	48⅛	49⅝
Apple Computer	36⅝	37⅛
Archer Daniels	28	27⅝
Armco	6	6⅛
Armstrng Wrld	39½	39⅝
Asarco	25⅝	26
Ashland Oil	35	35½
Atl Richfield	103⅝	103⅝
Auto Data Pro	55⅝	57⅝
Avery Dennison	31¼	32⅛
Avon Products	59⅝	60⅝
Baker Hughes	18⅝	18⅝
Baltim Gas & El	21¼	21¼
Banc One	24⅝	24⅝
BankAmerica	39	38⅞
Bank of NY	28⅛	27⅞
Bankers Tr NY	55⅝	55⅝
Barnett Banks	37⅛	37⅛
Bausch & Lomb	32⅝	33⅛
Baxter Intl	25⅝	25⅞
Bectn Dickusn	46½	46½
Bell Atlantic	50	50
BellSouth	52⅛	52⅝
Black & Decker	23⅝	23⅝
Block (H&R)	35	33⅝
Boeing	44⅝	45
Boise Cascade	23⅞	23⅝
Borden Inc	13⅝	13⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	57	57⅝
Browning Ferris	26⅝	28⅛
Brunswick	17⅛	17⅝
Burlington Nthn	46⅝	47⅛
CBS	54½	54
CNA Financial	61¼	61⅛
CPC Intl	51¼	52⅜
CSX	65	65⅝
Campbell Soup	43½	44⅝
Can Pacific	15⅝	15½
Cptl Cities ABC	81	83
Carolina Pwr	26⅝	25⅛
Caterpillar	52⅝	51¼
Central & SW	21¼	20⅞
Champion Intl	33⅞	33½
Chase Manhat	34⅝	34⅝
Chemical Bk	34⅝	34⅛
Chevron Corp	42⅝	43
Chrysler	46⅛	46½
Chubb Corp	69	69⅛
Cigna Corp	61⅝	61⅝
Citicorp	41¼	41¼
Clorox	57⅝	57
Coastal Corp	25⅛	25⅛
Coca Cola	51½	52⅛
Colgate-Palmolive	59⅝	60⅞
Columbia Gas	24⅛	24⅝
Compaq Comp	37⅛	38
Comp Ass Int	43	44½
Conagra	30⅞	31½
Cons Edison	25	24⅞
Cons Nat Gas	33⅝	33⅞
Cons Rail	50½	50⅝
Cooper Inds	35⅝	35⅞
Corning Inc	29⅞	30
Crown Cork	36⅛	37⅝
Dana Corp	20⅝	20⅝
Dayton Hudson	77⅝	78⅝
Deere	63⅝	64⅛
Delta Air Lines	49⅝	51½
Deluxe Corp	27⅝	28⅝
Detroit Edison	25⅝	25⅝
Digital Equip	33⅞	34⅞
Dillard Dept St	27⅝	27⅝
Disney (Walt)	42⅝	43
Dominion Res	35⅞	36
Donnelley (RR)	28⅝	28⅝
Dover Corp	50⅝	51
Dow Chemical	61½	62⅝
Dow Jones	28⅝	29⅝
Dresser	19⅝	20⅝
Duke Power	39⅝	39⅞
Dun & Bradstreet	51⅝	52⅞
Du Pont	51⅝	52⅛
Eastman Kodak	45⅝	45⅝
Eaton Corp	47⅝	48⅝
Emerson Elec	59⅝	60
Engelhard Corp	21⅞	22

	Nov 23 midday	Nov 22 close
Enron Corp	29⅝	29⅝
Entergy	22⅛	22
Ethyl Corp	10⅝	10⅝
Exxon	60⅝	60⅝
FMC Corp	59⅝	60
FPL Group	33⅝	33⅝
Federal Express	58⅝	60
Fed Nat Mtge	70⅝	68⅝
First Chicago	46½	46½
First Interstate	69⅝	69⅞
First Union Rlty	6⅛	6⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	30½	30⅞
Fluor Corp	41¼	41¼
Ford Motor	26½	26⅛
GTE Corp	30½	30
Gannett	47⅝	48½
Gap Inc Del	35⅝	36⅝
Gen Dynamics	38⅛	39⅛
Gen Electric	45⅞	46⅛
Gen Mills	54⅝	55
Gen Motors	36⅝	36⅝
Gen Reinsurance	111¼	112⅝
Gen Signal	34⅝	35
Genuine Parts	34⅝	35⅛
Georgia Pac	67⅛	67⅛
Gillette	71½	72⅛
Glaxo ADR	19⅛	19⅛
Goodrich (BF)	42⅝	42⅝
Goodyear Tire	32½	31¼
Grace (WR)	37⅛	37⅝
Gt Atl Pac Tea	22	22⅝
Great Wstn Fin	15½	15⅛
Halliburton	33⅝	33
Harcourt General	35⅝	36
Heinz (HJ)	35⅛	35⅝
Hercules	111¼	112⅝
Hershey Foods	47	47
Hewlett Packard	95⅛	96
Hilton Hotels	68⅝	69
Home Depot	45⅝	45⅝
Homestake Mng	16⅝	17
Honeywell	28⅛	29
Household Intl	36	36⅛
Houston Inds	32⅛	32⅝
Humana	21	21¼
ITT Corp	81	82½
Illinois Tool	40⅛	41¼
Illinova	19⅛	19⅛
INCO	25⅝	26⅛
Ingersoll Rand	31	30⅞
Inland Steel	30⅝	30⅛
Intel Corp	63⅛	64⅛
IBM	69⅝	69⅝
Intl Flav & Fr	43⅝	44
Intl Paper	68½	68½
James River Va	20⅞	21
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	52½	52⅛
Kellogg	58⅝	59
Kerr-McGee	45	47
Kimberly-Clark	47½	47⅝
Kmart	13⅝	14
Knight-Ridder	47⅛	48⅛
Lilly (Eli)	58⅛	60⅛
Limited Inc	19⅝	20⅝
LIN Brdcstng	139⅝	139⅝
Lincoln Nat	35⅝	36½
Litton	33⅛	33⅝
Liz Claiborne	22	22
Lockheed	67½	68⅛
Louisiana Pac	26½	26½
MCI Comm	21⅝	21⅛
Marriott Int	26⅛	27⅛
Marsh & McLnn	71½	71¼
Masco Corp	22⅝	22⅝
May Dept St	35⅛	36⅛
Maytag Corp	14⅝	14⅝
McDonalds	28½	29⅛
McDonnell D	137½	139⅛
McGraw Hill	67⅝	68
Mead Corp	44⅛	45⅛
Medtronic	51¼	51⅛
Mellon Bk	31⅝	31½
Melville Corp	30⅝	31½
Merck Inc	35⅞	35⅝
Merrill Lynch	36½	36½
Minnesota Mine	51⅛	50⅛
Mobil Corp	83⅝	84⅝
Monsanto	71	71
Morgan (JP)	56⅛	55⅝
Motorola Inc	55⅛	57
Natl Medical	13⅝	14⅛
Natl Semi	17½	17½
Natl Service Ind	25⅝	26
Navistar Intl	12⅝	12⅛
NBD Bancorp	27⅝	27⅝
NY Times A	23⅝	24
Newmont Mng	38	38⅞
Niag Mohawk	13⅝	13⅝
Nike B	63½	63⅝
NL Industries	11	11½
Noram Energy	5⅝	5⅝
Nordstrom	44½	44⅛
Norfolk Sthrn	59⅝	59⅝
Nthn State Pwr	44⅛	44½
Norwest Corp	22⅛	21⅝
Nynex Corp	38⅝	38⅝
Occidental Pet	19	19⅛
Ohio Edison	18⅛	18⅝
Oracle Systems	39⅛	39⅛
Oryx Energy Co	12⅛	12⅝

	Nov 23 midday	Nov 22 close
Owens Corning	28⅝	28⅝
PNC Financial	20⅝	20⅝
PPG Industries	34	35⅛
Paccar Inc	40⅝	40
Pacificorp	18	17½
Pac Enterprises	21½	20⅞
Pac Gas & Elect	22⅞	22⅝
Pac Telesis	29⅝	29⅝
Pall Corp	17⅝	17⅝
Panhandle East	20⅝	20⅞
Parker Hannifin	42⅝	42⅝
Peco Energy	24⅝	24
Penney (JC)	46½	46⅝
Pennzoil	46⅛	47½
Pepsico	35⅝	36
Pfizer	73⅝	74⅝
Phelps Dodge	54½	56⅛
Philip Morris	59⅝	60⅝
Phillips Pet	32⅝	33⅝
Pitney Bowes	33⅝	37⅛
Polaroid	30⅝	30⅝
PriceCostco	14⅛	14⅝
Procter & Gmbl	61⅞	62⅝
Providian	30⅝	31¼
Pub Serv E & G	25⅝	25⅝
Quaker Oats	61¼	62⅝
Ralston Purina	42⅝	42
Raychem Corp	34	34⅝
Raytheon	62⅝	62⅝
Reebok Intl	37⅝	38⅝
Reynolds Metals	45⅝	47⅛
Roadway Srvcs	50	50⅝
Rockwell Intl	33⅛	33½
Rohm & Haas	54⅝	55½
Royal Dutch	106	106⅝
Rubbermaid	27⅛	27⅛
Safeco Corp	47⅝	47⅝
St Paul's Cos	40⅝	40⅝
Salomon Inc	36⅛	36⅝
Santa Fe Pac	16⅝	17⅝
Sara Lee Corp	24⅝	24½
Scecorp	13⅝	13⅛
Schering Plough	72⅝	73⅛
Schlumberger	54⅝	55½
Scott Paper	62⅝	64⅝
Seagram	27⅛	28
Sears Roebuck	47	46⅛
Shell Trans	69	69⅝
Sherwin Wlms	30	30⅝
Skyline Corp	18½	18½
Snap-On-Tools	30⅝	31
Southern Co	19⅝	19⅝
Sthwestern Bell	41¼	42
Sprint Corp	30⅛	30⅝
Stanley Works	35⅝	35
Sun Company	28⅛	28⅝
Sun Microsys	31¼	32
Suntrust	46½	47⅝
Supervalu	24	24½
Sysco Corp	25⅛	25⅝
TRW Inc	64	64½
TCC Inds	2⅛	2⅝
Tandem Comp	16½	17⅛
Tandy Corp	41¼	43
Teledyne	17⅛	17⅝
Temple Inland	44	44⅝
Tenneco	38⅛	39⅛
Texaco	61¼	61⅝
Texas Inst	74	74⅝
Texas Utilities	31¼	31¼
Textron	47⅝	48½
Time Warner	33⅛	34
Times-Mirror	30⅝	31¼
Timken	31½	32
Torchmark	33⅝	33⅝
Toys R Us	35½	36⅛
Transamerica	46½	47⅛
Travelers	31¼	31
Tribune	49⅝	52⅝
Tyco Labs	43⅞	44½
UST Inc	27⅛	27⅛
UAL	91	95⅝
USX Marathon	18⅝	18⅝
Unicom	22⅝	22⅝
Unilever NV	109⅝	110⅝
Union Camp	44⅛	44⅛
Union Carbide	27	27⅛
Union Pacific	45½	46
Unisys Corp	9⅛	9⅛
USAIR Group	4⅛	4⅛
USF&G Corp	13½	13½
US Life	32⅛	32⅝
US West	36⅛	36⅛
United Tech	55⅝	55⅝
Unocal Corp	26⅝	27
Upjohn	29⅝	30
VF Corp	48⅝	49⅛
WMX Tech	25⅝	25⅝
Wal-Mart Stores	23⅝	23⅛
Warner-Lambert	73⅝	75
Wells Fargo	142⅝	142
Westinghouse El	12⅝	12⅝
Weyerhaeuser	36⅛	35⅝
Whirlpool	49	49⅝
Whitman	16	15⅝
Winn Dixie	51⅝	52
Woolworth	14⅛	14⅝
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	46⅝	46⅝
Xerox	97⅛	99⅝
Yellow Corp	19⅛	18⅝

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Don't risk the risque

BEWARE the festive round of office parties — and be on your best behaviour. Sexual harrassement cases are fast spreading their expensive shadows across American corporations and there could be a bank of specialist lawyers lurking behind every Christmas office cabinet. Party season is a fertile time for indelicate remarks, back-slapping, unwanted brushes and other "innocent" gestures that could cost thousands. Ronald Green, of New York attorneys Epstein Becker & Green, specialists in employment law, is in London to spread the legal word of the pitfalls that await the innocent aboard. He acts for a number of UK companies with American operations, and educates foreigners about what is, and what is not, accepted attitude and office practice in America. Men need to be aware of the "no touching, no profanity" guidelines. If the question to a female colleague "and what kind of weekend did you have?" is accompanied by a leer, it could be grounds for action. Harassment works both ways, Green admits, and men occassionally claim sexual harrassement by female superiors. So is the good old-fashioned firm handshake threatened?, I asked? "I use only one hand," Green says, "it is inadvisable to use two." So, perhaps we should all practice the no-touch Japanese bow. Alternatively, remember the sage advice: Never, ever have sex with anyone in the office. Always wait until you get home."



Unlucky 12

ON TUESDAY, Newton Management finalised the acquisition of Capital House Investment, the investment management subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Yesterday, the enlarged group now managing £8 billion sent out redundancies notices. "They went out to 12 out of 230", Newton says.

Heading off

NATWEST Securities is losing its nine-strong investment trust sales and trading team to Kleinwort Benson in a fresh round of City headhunting. The nine-strong team is expected to formally resign today. The move will come as a severe blow to NatWest, which has built one of the City's most respected investment trust research and trading desks. Joe Lafferty, managing director of pan-European equities at NatWest, said the firm remained committed to the investment trust sector, and steps are being taken to rebuild the team, recruiting from within if necessary.

Muffin menu

MY KINDA Town holds its first annual meeting today, Thanksgiving Day, at 10am. That's considered too early for a deep dish pizza from The Chicago Pizza Pie Factory, so a blueberry muffin will be served with coffee. If most shareholders fail to turn up, those attending are threatened with two muffins.

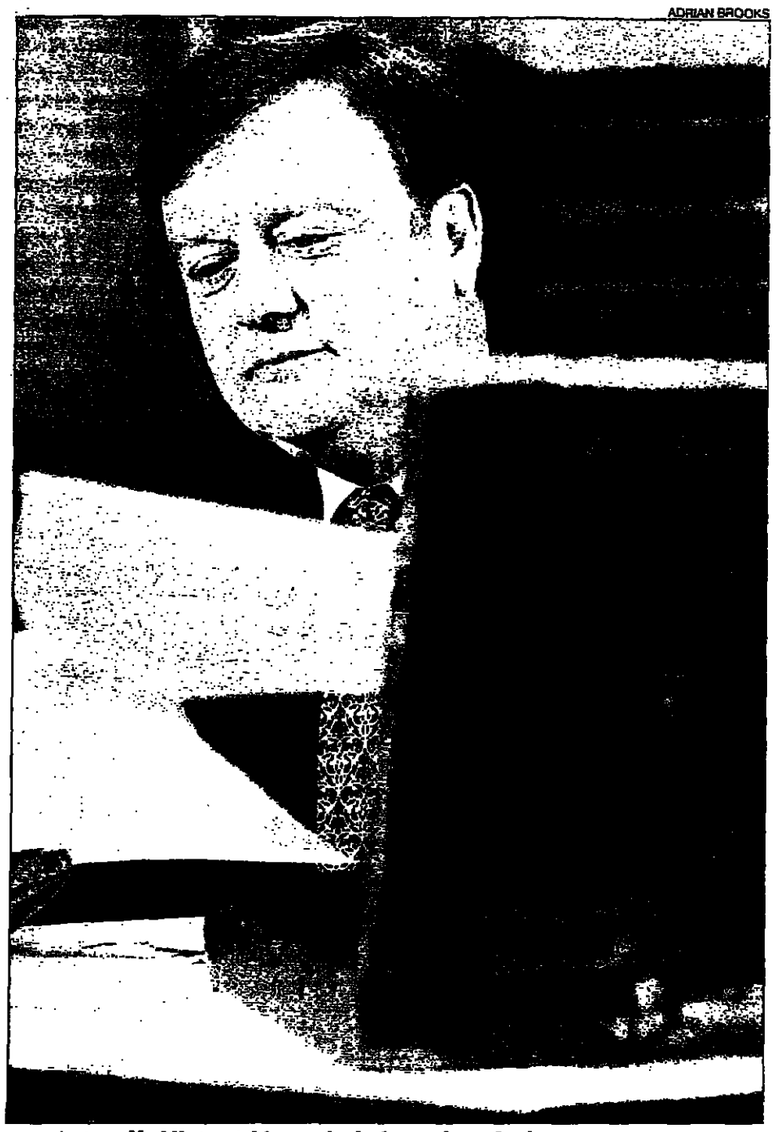
COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW — JANET BUSH



Will being nasty now allow Chancellor to be nice later?

Janet Bush asks whether a predictable and sensible Budget will serve Kenneth Clarke well



ADRIAN BROOKS

A case of holding out this year in the hope of pre-election tax cuts next year

There are many reasons why the run-up to next Tuesday's Budget has been short on speculation and long on yawns. Not least of these is that Kenneth Clarke has already made it clear that he will not cut taxes despite good news on the Government's finances, growth and inflation, all of which have performed more satisfactorily than the assumptions pencilled into last November's Budget. He has also firmly ruled out any temptation to reverse some of the £6¾ billion of tax rises — some his and some Norman Lamont's — already due to take effect next year.

Everybody knows — and Mr Clarke has been as open as any about the strategy — that this is a holding budget and that any leeway to cut taxes will not be used until nearer the election. It is apparently universally acknowledged that the Chancellor will give worried Tory backbenchers what they want in next year's Budget, leaving open the option of an election in the spring or autumn of 1996.

Mr Clarke has underlined this possibility with his statement that taxes should not be cut until the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement is below 3 per cent of gross domestic product. As last November's plans showed the deficit falling to 2.75 per cent of GDP in fiscal 1996 — not taking account of lower inflation and higher growth — there seems to be nothing to stop the Chancellor having his pre-election tax cuts.

But, until he assumes his destined Lawsonesque role, a bravura performance in which he saves his party's electoral bacon, his current season playing the hair-shirt tough guy will continue its run.

Mr Clarke is a clever politician. He has redirected his bruiser instincts from fighting nurses and teachers to battling the evils of inflation, boom and bust and deficits. His public pronouncements out-central bank the central bankers on occasion. He has enthusiastically embraced not only his own soubriquet, Canny Ken, but also that of his chum in Threadneedle Street, Steady Eddie.

As Chris Shaw, editor of ITN, says in a glossy little Budget guide produced with James Capel: "The fact is that Ken Clarke has reinvented himself ... at least for public consumption. Gone is the down-to-earth pugnacity, now he is the very model of a modern Chancellor."

He has every reason to play the cautious and responsible Chancellor for at least another year. Very little he could do next Tuesday would rescue the party from its desperate unpopularity and the lack of an economic feel-good factor, which, while uncomfortable for Tory backbenchers, really does not matter in electoral terms for another 12 months.

The economic and political cycle argues for as austere a Budget as the Chancellor can conjure up. The arguments seem so obvious that there is little disagreement in the City about the broad thrust of next Tuesday's offering.

Tax cuts now would be wasted ammunition and would go down badly with the financial markets. But large spending cuts are anticipated. Mr Clarke scored heavily with his party and the markets last year by unexpectedly cutting public spending control totals.

There is every reason to expect more of the same. The more spending is cut — whether genuine cuts or cuts on paper — the more room for tax cuts later. This, and some more pre-emptive interest rate strikes against inflation, would leave the Bank of England with fewer reasons to squeal when the politicians want to dole out pre-election tax goodies.

The only question is how big the announced cuts will be. There has been an outbreak of something resembling a bidding war, with City economists producing successively bigger estimates for expected spending cuts. Press reports after the Cabinet met to make the final spending decisions suggested cuts of £4 billion to £5 billion. But City estimates run as high as £8 billion.

This is possible. Lower inflation than expected in last year's Budget Red Book has meant lower spending. Higher growth and faster than anticipated falls in official unemployment figures have also contributed to savings on the social security budget. On top of this, Mr Clarke can lop another few billion off the Contingency Reserve. The downside of being predictable is that, like the Queen's Speech, a boring Budget does not make the Government look very good. So, what else is the Chancellor likely to include? It is clear that the most obvious area for reform is in the labour market, a leitmotif of Mr Clarke's speeches as Chancellor. Action in this area, particularly involving sticks and/or carrots to help get the unemployed into jobs at the bottom end of the jobs market, has the additional advantage of stealing some of Labour's clothes.

> "Gone is the down-to-earth pugnacity — he is a model modern Chancellor"

The Government has already announced its Jobseekers Allowance. Mr Clarke may now unveil changes to Family Credit and housing benefit work (currently often a disincentive to taking up work), adjustments to National Insurance at the low end of the pay scale, some kind of in-work partial subsidy to bridge the gap between receipts of benefit and a low paid job, and more help related to childcare.

The overriding need to get the deficit down as quickly as possible may preclude anything dramatic and therefore expensive on this front.

The Chancellor's avowed interest in middle England industry may mean that some heed is taken of the many calls for measures to help boost investment. Only recently, the third-quarter GDP figures showed an alarming 1 per cent drop in gross domestic fixed capital formation. No investment boom yet.

If the Chancellor is looking for a crowd-cheering surprise, he could relatively cheaply take 1p off the basic rate, an out-and-out shocker given his vehement denials that he will cut taxes. Or he could overindex personal allowances to such a degree that a whole swathe of the low paid would be taken out of the tax system altogether.

So where is the potential controversy, the seed of doubt, the crack in this terrible predictability and common sense? There are various questions that ought to be posed.

Firstly, the likelihood of tax cuts before the election has scarcely been criticised by the economics profession, perhaps because it is resigned to politicians, particularly ones in deep trouble, having their way. With a need to rebalance the economy away from consumption in the long-term and, in 1996 and 1997, the recovery being fairly mature, tax cutting may not be at all the prudent thing to do. As suggested earlier, the Bank of England is likely to exact a price in terms of spending cuts and monetary tightening.

Secondly, the switch away from consumption and towards manufacturing production and exports that has already taken place means that the outlook for the PSBR may not be quite as good as it seems. The economics team at Hoare Govett acknowledges that lower inflation and unemployment should lead to cuts in existing spending plans but notes: "Set against that should be the impact on government revenue of weak personal income growth and the changing composition of demand growth — a shift from "tax-rich" consumers' spending to "tax-poor" net trade and investment.

Thirdly, all talk is dominated by the strong economic picture painted by third-quarter GDP figures. But there is no doubt that consumption has weakened markedly and there are more tax cuts next year worth another 1 per cent of GDP. The Chancellor should take care that donning the hair-shirt does not mean that a chain reaction is set off, with dropping consumption leading to a loss of confidence in the productive sectors of the economy. A decent level of growth is still a prerequisite for cutting the Government's budget deficit.

Finally, history does not necessarily suggest that tax cuts win elections. And an electorate that was told last time round by John Major that taxes would not be raised may prove a sceptical audience even with some extra pennies in their pockets.

BAe jets away from regional lease disaster

Ross Tieman describes two remarkably successful years of damage limitation

In the history of British corporate disasters, the crisis that overtook British Aerospace's civil aircraft business in 1992 merits a place in the first division.

A £1 billion provision for losses and leasing exposure pushed the company to the brink. Faith in it was so damaged that 90 per cent of shareholders declined the call for extra funds. At the heart of that disaster was the realisation that British Aerospace had an open ended exposure to the leases on 118 regional jets, roughly half of all the BAe 146 jets produced. That liability would continue for up to 20 years.

But yesterday, after two years tackling the problem, British Aerospace announced that the danger is past. All but nine of the leased aircraft are back in the air and prices are hardening again.

Much of the credit for this remarkable damage limitation exercise belongs to BAe's Asset Management Organisation, set up in January 1993 to manage the company's fleet of planes.

Robin Southwell, the managing director of AMO, has concentrated on getting aircraft back into the air. By accepting lower lease rates and short term leases, he has encouraged smaller airlines to try to develop new routes using the BAe 146. Three airlines are using 146s to service European capitals out of London City airport and British Airways has just confirmed plans for a new associate, Carib Express, which will use 146s to provide feeder services in the Caribbean. Other airlines are following suit.

Cheaper leases have been backed by a strong commitment to the aircraft. AMO has offered airlines guarantees, backed by insurance, on maintenance costs; it also provides intensive in-service support. "When somebody signs a contract with us they are going to get a super product, on the ramp, ready for customers to board," Mr Southwell says.

This improved fleet management has coincided with concentration of feeder services in the hands of specialist operators and a worldwide recovery in business travel.

In October alone AMO signed 15 new leases with 11 airlines. Revenues at AMO, amounting to some $180 million a year, still fall short of BAe's liability under its head lease contracts. But with demand rising and secondhand prices hardening to more than $18 million a plane, AMO is preparing to push up charges and encourage customers to sign for longer leases to improve the quality of its business.

While AMO may never make up the revenues lost during the time aircraft were standing idle, it is realistic to hope that some part of the £1 billion provision may eventually be written back on to the balance sheet.

As airline profitability improves, carriers are showing a greater willingness to buy planes for cash so that they can offset depreciation against tax. This is raising interest in the purchase of secondhand 146s from AMO. It is also good news for Avro International, the BAe subsidiary that builds the current version of the 146, the RJ.

With 43 RJs delivered and 20 more on order, there are hopes that Avro may be able to increase production from 18 a year, albeit not immediately. Faster building would quickly feed through to better profitability at Avro, which is showing a modest operating profit.

Equally important is the fact that the improving outlook for both the 146 and the RJ improves the chances of British Aerospace achieving a joint venture with another manufacturer of regional aircraft.

The success of AMO also acts as a model for a sister company set up by BAe to manage a comparable leasing exposure on the fleet of turbo props built by its Jetstream Aircraft subsidiary at Prestwick, in Strathclyde.

JSX, based in the US, has a $2 billion portfolio embracing more than 400 turboprops. Most of these are the 19-seat J31, the most successful plane of its size in the world. Although demand in America continues to decline as operators trade up to larger aircraft such as the 30-seat J41, JSX is beginning to reduce the number of idle planes. It has been remarkably successful in promoting use of the J31 in Latin America.

JSX is still a year or more behind AMO in its drive to stabilise the secondhand turboprop market. But success here is equally critical to finding a partner for Jetstream manufacturing and stemming its £120 million annual loss.

BUSINESS LETTERS

C&W executive chairman regrets job losses

From the Executive Chairman, Cable & Wireless plc

Sir, I, too, greatly regret the photograph that accompanied the report of our half-year results. The choice was not ours, but that of *The Times*.

I regret even more the need to reduce our headcount, but, in a market ever more competitive, we have little alternative in the interests of the vast majority of the employees of Mercury and the shareholders of Cable & Wireless.

As for my own remuneration, this is performance related and will clearly reflect the pressures on the business this year.

Yours faithfully,
YOUNG of GRAFFHAM,
Executive Chairman,
Cable & Wireless plc,
124 Theobalds Road,
WC1.

The answer on pay

From Mr Rodney Atkinson

Sir, Pennington (November 16) is right to criticise excessive pay for company directors, due to their "power to set their own or at least each others pay".

But Pennington is wrong to conclude from this that everyone earning more than £100,000 per annum should therefore be subjected to 50 per cent tax rate. Why penalise the many who earn their rewards in a free market just because a few abuse their positions in a corporatist economy where capital has lost control of company directors?

The answer must be to enhance the power and independence of capital and return to the traditional division of powers: capital, management, workers, competitors. This can be achieved by lower capital taxes, removal of allowances which direct individual savings towards collective institutions, and a requirement that 75 per cent of a company's board should derive income entirely from capital.

These are the kind of reforms some of us are now incorporating in a new manifesto for (true) conservatism.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY E.B. ATKINSON,
Campaign for United Kingdom Conservatives,
22 Gayfere Street,
SW1.

No laughing matter

From Mr R. M. Langton

Sir, Sir Bryan Thwaites' stricture on insensitive management is validated by a laughing Ross Buckland announcing cheerfully hundreds of job losses at Unigate on your front page (November 17)

To wipe the grins off their faces I suggest that it be made mandatory to reduce the numbers of board members and their salaries by the same percentage as the workforce falls. That would ensure that at least there were no unnecessary sackings.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LANGTON,
42 Chiswick Staithe,
Hartington Road, W4.

Tax on car perk

From Mrs P. Chiswell

Sir, I read with interest the article about the taxation of cars provided by the NatWest Bank for their managers ("Taxman hits bank managers' car perk", November 15).

The benefit is calculated on the business mileage in the year — it matters not whether one car is provided or any number consecutively.

The injustice is that the bank buys the car at a considerable discount but the benefit assessable on the managers is calculated on the full list price, plus extras. This applies to the taxation of all company cars.

I wonder whether, in addition to a Corporation Tax assessment on their banking activities, the bank will also receive an assessment as "second-hand car dealers".

Yours faithfully,
P. CHISWELL
(Tax Manager),
Blease, Lloyd & Co.
Chartered Accountants,
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Long hot summer sweetens profits for Tate & Lyle

BY NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

A WORLDWIDE surge in demand for soft drinks last year enabled Tate & Lyle, the international sugar and starch group, to increase profits by 23 per cent to £274 million in the year to September 30.

Neil Shaw, the chairman, said that four-fifths of the 11 per cent rise in turnover had been driven by a rise in volumes. Last year's hot summer had boosted sales of cola and ice cream, which contain sugar and syrup.

Tate's operating profit passed £300 million for the first time and the group's cash flow rose 16 per cent to a record £445 million. It is distributing a final dividend of 9.8p, payable on February 7, to make 14.4p for the year, an increase of 11 per cent.

Mr Shaw revealed that Tate has set up a joint venture with Swires, the Hong Kong trading group, to build two sugar refining plants in Guangxi province in southern China. The company already has a minority interest in four other plants in the province, which is China's largest producer of cane sugar.

During the year, Tate invested £130 million in acquisitions and a further £158 million in internal investment. Despite that the group cut its borrowings by £46 million to £581 million.

Mr Shaw said international expansion would continue. The group plans to establish a sugar refinery in Vietnam and also hopes to move into Mexico, a market which has eluded it for several years. Tate is also keen to continue investing in China and will expand its interests in Eastern Europe, including its recently developed fructose and corn syrup plants in Hungary and Bulgaria, in which it has already invested almost £25 million.

Low prices caused by oversupply mean that the US market is still difficult, Mr Shaw said, but the recent Sugar Act's quota system will limit supply and should increase prices by about two cents per pound next year. Tate's profits rise by up to $4 million for every cent that the price of sugar beet increases.

Tate hopes that next year the Food and Drug Administration will approve Sucralose, its low calorie sweetener, for sale in the US. It is already selling it in several smaller markets, such as Canada.

Mr Shaw said there would always be underperforming units in the group but that its spread of activities insulated it from the financial effects of a downturn in any one market. "We have some problems in the US sugar market but the demand for starch was good. Tate & Lyle has a broad foundation and we will always have ripples downwards and ripples up," he said.

Tate is also planning to expand Orsan, the French monosodium glutamate manufacturer that it bought earlier this year, and it is trying to reduce manufacturing costs by substituting dextrose for molasses as its base ingredient.

Tempus, page 28

Chloride moves into security industry

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

CHLORIDE, the battery maker that is transforming itself into an electronics group, is diversifying into the security industry with the acquisition of ADE Group, the burglar alarms company, for up to £12.5 million.

The group will pay an inital £5 million, comprising £4 million in cash and £1 million in shares, and up to £7.5 million of deferred consideration depending on ADE's future profits performance.

Ray Horrocks, Chloride's chairman, said the acquisition was in keeping with the group's strategy of acquiring electronics companies in markets that offered real growth potential. Chloride acquired Ondyne, a European power supplies manufacturer specialising in electronic office equipment, earlier this year.

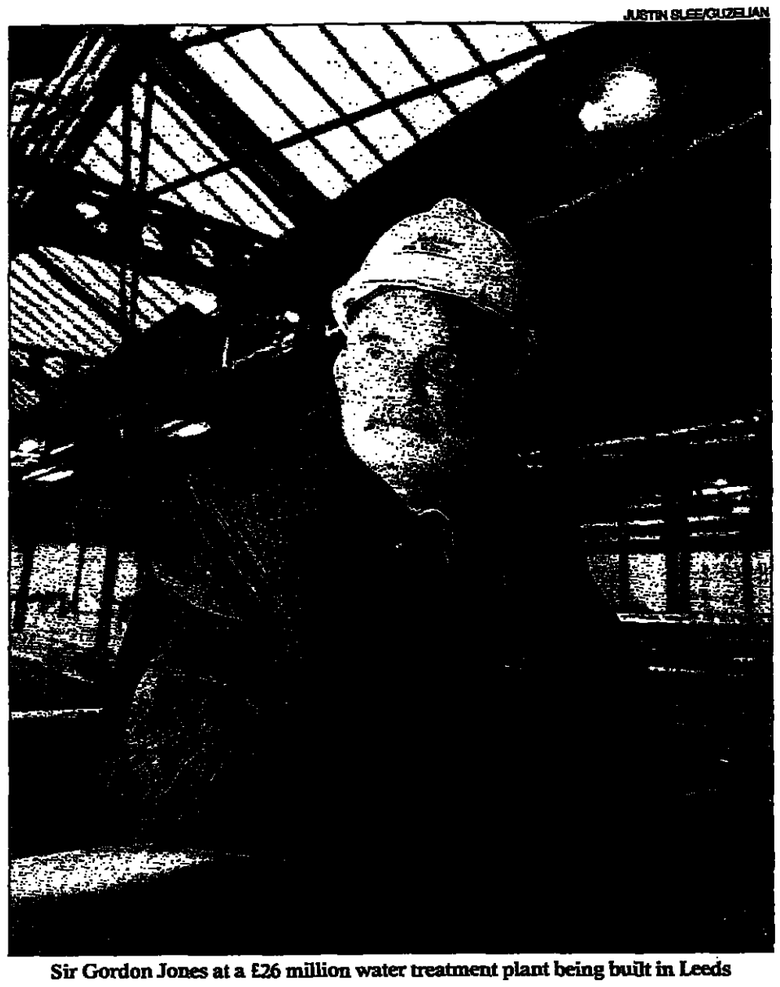
ADE, which is the leading UK manufacturer of intruder alarm control panels, made pre-tax profits of £1.34 million on sales of £18.53 million in the year to April 30. Chloride said that the deal would be earning enhancing in the current year and thereafter.

Chloride reported a 73 per cent jump in operating profits of continuing businesses to £786,000 from £455,000 in the six months to September 30. However, the disposal of its African battery businesses, which contributed £1.1 million to operating profits in the first half of last year, meant pre-tax profits fell to £1.04 million from £1.32 million. Earnings per share rose to 0.3p from 0.1p.

The group is optimistic about prospects in the second half, given the slow but steady improvement in its markets and increasing customer acceptance of its new products.

Mr Horrocks said that the underlying improvement in profits, coupled with the promising outlook, meant the group was now able to return to the dividend list for the first time since 1990. The interim dividend is set at 0.1p and will be paid on February 9.

JUSTIN SLEE/GUZELIAN



Sir Gordon Jones at a £26 million water treatment plant being built in Leeds

Yorkshire Water profits hit by cost of cutting jobs

BY ERIC REGULY

YORKSHIRE Water is taking a £25 million provision for restructuring, on top of a £10 million charge made last year, to cover costs of a more extensive job-reduction programme.

The provision, announced yesterday, came as some surprise to the City. "It's certainly bigger than we expected," said Richard Smith, an analyst with Kleinwort Benson.

The charge helped to reduce Yorkshire Water's pre-tax profits to £67.2 million in the half year to the end of September, 11 per cent below the £74.8 million of the same period of last year. Excluding the charge, pre-tax earnings were up by 23 per cent, to £92.3 million, while group turnover, including non-regulated activities, rose by 6 per cent, to £275.4 million. The profitable non-regulated side now accounts for almost 10 per cent of the turnover of the company, chaired by Sir Gordon Jones.

Earnings per share of 31.9p, against 36.1p, "were more or less in line with our expectations", said Mr Smith, who still recommends the shares.

Charles Tunley, finance director of Yorkshire Water, said that part of the restructuring charge will be used to train former employees for new jobs. About a quarter of the 1,000 jobs being eliminated this year and next are being transferred to other companies under "out-sourcing".

So far, Yorkshire Water employee departures have been voluntary. However, Mr Tunley said that the company is "not ruling out compulsory redundancies next year".

The interim dividend, due on February 27, rises by 9.2 per cent, to 8.3p. The shares fell by 12p, to 528p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Waddington feels pressure on margins

JOHN Waddington, the board games and packaging company, gave a warning that margins were suffering because of a leap in the price of raw materials. Particularly affected has been the group's plastic packaging business, which has been hit by a rapid succession of rises. Martin Buckley, the chief executive, said: "While we are passing on the bulk of these increases, the time lag in recovering the most recent increases in costs continues to exert pressure on margins."

Weaker performances from its food and drinks plastic packaging business held back the rise in group profits, which climbed 10 per cent to £9.9 million, from £9 million, in the six months, to October 1. The interim dividend goes up to 3.8p a share from 3.68p on earnings per share unchanged at 7.88p. The shares fell 13p to 222p.

Birkby demerger

BIRKBY plans to demerge its commercial vehicle hire business as a separate quoted company. Shares will be placed with institutional investors, valuing the business at more than £26 million. It will keep a minority holding in Hill Hire. Results for the six months to September 30 showed a jump in pre-tax profits after the Hill Hire acquisition to £4.1 million from £581,000 in the same period last year. Earnings per share rose to 8.2p from 3.5p and the interim dividend rises to 2p from 1.2p. Shares fell 5p to 233p.

Clydeport floats at £55m

CLYDEPORT, which operates the ports of Glasgow, Greenock, Hunterston and Ardrossan, will be capitalised at about £55 million when it obtains a full listing on the stock market. Allied Provincial Securities has arranged a placing of 43 per cent of the company's share capital at 133p a share. Dealings are due to begin on December 8. Some £4.1 million is being raised under the placing. In the 40 weeks to October 7 pre-tax profits reached £3.1 million, and for the year-end to December pre-tax profits of £4.1 million are forecast.

Division seeks £9.6m

DIVISION Group, the manufacturer of virtual reality systems, is raising £9.6 million through a rights issue to fund product development and to enhance sales and marketing efforts. New shares are being issued at 100p each, on the basis of three for every 10 existing shares held. The company, which was floated in last December, also forecast a pre-tax loss of £1.44 million for the year to October 31, compared with a £503,000 loss in the previous 12 months.

Electricity bills cut

SOUTHERN Electric is deducting £7 from the first quarterly bills of 1995 at a cost of £19 million, benefiting about 2.5 million domestic and small business customers. Some 12,000 large industrial and commercial customers will receive a £100 credit for the same quarter. Southern Electric said that total benefits passed on to domestic and small business customers in real terms since April 1993 totalled £112 million.

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ACCOUNTANCY

Towards a global standard

BY PETER HOLGATE AND CHRIS NOBES

International differences in accounting are enormous and damaging. The problem is many people use earnings figures from different countries as part of: analysing the value of equity shares; credit analysis; takeover plans; assessment of competitors, customers, suppliers; and so on. In general, there is little choice but to use a company's own figures, perhaps with some estimated adjustments.

There are many types of international differences, such as the availability of financial reports, the adequacy of provisions for pensions, the valuation basis of land and buildings, and the smoothing of profits. These issues led the European Union to address harmonisation in several directives that have become law in all member states.

In 1990, the EU announced the termination of the programme of directives, leaving much of the problem intact. One partial solution is commercial pressure, whereby large companies are forced to improve their reporting in order to tap global capital markets. However, this also is a slow and partial process.

A key player is the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC), founded in 1973. Accountancy bodies from nine leading countries were on the original board. The membership now covers more than 100 bodies from 80 countries, with a 14-member board, including representatives from most of the founder countries.

The IASC's early life was worthy but dull. It issued a series of basic accounting standards, which were largely compromises between US and UK practice. Nevertheless, the standards were influential in some developing countries, in the group accounts of some listed continental European companies, for example, Italy and France, and in EU discussions on directives.

By the late 1980s, it was clear that the basic work was done and that further progress would require higher standards and more powerful backing. In 1988, an improvements project was launched whereby many accounting options were to be removed.

In addition, IOSCO, the government regulator of stock markets, agreed to consider recommending the resulting standards for cross-border listings: that is, a German company could then use IASs for reporting to US or UK stock exchanges. By then, several countries were basing their accounting standards closely on those of the IASC. Also, globalisation of securities markets was well under way, and the EU was bowing out of further harmonisation work. All this made the IASC more important.

In 1993, ten improved standards were adopted by the IASC, and this year IOSCO gave a preliminary positive response, but called for some more work to be done before the full package of standards could be approved. IOSCO has already backed IAS 7 on cash-flow statements, and the American SEC has approved both IAS 7 and elements of other standards. It seems the IASC may soon graduate from the wings to centre stage.

This creates great potential advantages for UK companies because the IASC seems to be inventing a world accounting system that is broadly in line with UK philosophy and practice. Nevertheless, there are now some problems for us.

Until the revised standards of 1993 (which come into force in 1995 for those who follow IASC rules), compliance with UK rules would generally achieve compliance with IASs. However, after the options have been removed, several UK rules and some further predominant practices are now out of line.

For the first time, UK companies will have to change their practices, and, in some cases, the UK rules will have to be changed if compliance with IASs is the objective. This compliance may become increasingly useful to UK companies, so the UK Accounting Standards Board may find that it faces pressure to avoid eccentric UK practices, for example, in fields of goodwill and deferred taxation. Clearly, the days of the UK's cosy relationship with an ineffectual IASC are now long gone.

The authors are, respectively, accounting technical partner in Coopers & Lybrand and Coopers & Lybrand professor of accounting at the University of Reading. The firm's book, Accounting Comparisons: UK/International Accounting Standards, *(Gee & Co) has recently been published.*

PETER TREVNOR



Chris Nobes, left, and Peter Holgate foresee change

Earnings figures in accordance with home rules and as reconciled to US rules

	Domestic	US GAAP
Norsk Hydro (Norway, NOK)	167m	1,763m
Ericsson (Sweden, SEK)	866m	1,551m
Cadbury Schweppes (UK£)	178m	131m
The News Corporation (Australia,A$)	502m	241m
Daimler-Benz (Germany, DM)	615m	(1,839m)

Big six dilemma as DTI waits and sees

THE top accountancy firms face a huge dilemma. The DTI has called their bluff over the issue of litigation and liability and they are none too sure how to respond.

The problem is simple. All the huffing and puffing and delivering of statistics last February to show they were in dire prospect of going bust under the weight of unfair litigation has not worked. The DTI has applied a simple test. "Where is the public interest issue? Give us the evidence of that."

There is no doubt there is a problem. The firms do face mounting litigation. Much of it is out of control. Much of it is frivolous and has much to do with the fact that firms have insurance and directors do not. There is no point in suing an inept, culpable but broke director. There is every point in suing the only people who must have insurance.

But civil servants prefer to avoid all but the most urgent of work. And changing the legislation to help accounting firms will not bring voters flocking to your cause either. So after considering the evidence and argument provided by both the firms and the English ICA this February and March, the DTI would like clarification. It is effectively saying: "In the past we have allowed you the option to incorporate and have changed the law so you can vary S310 of the Companies Act to limit your liability on non-audit work. What reason is there for us to do any more?"



ROBERT BRUCE

All that is left is the public interest card. But that is hard to play. When large accounting firms start talking specifics about the public interest they start to bluster. If you condense the arguments put forward in their report to the DTI in February, it comes down to a simple "auditing is very important and the collapse of a large firm would be disruptive", point. This is true. But in the scale of things, it is a minor problem. If the auditor of a proportion of the UK's largest companies went bust, the hiatus would be short and manageable. The greatest effect would be to clarify the minds of the regulators who might decide that allowing all UK audits to be effectively concentrated among six firms was a bad thing.

The firms' report talked of "serious short-term disruption" and "damaging longer-term repercussions". But the damage, if you stop and think about it, would be to the profession rather than to the public interest. The DTI recognised this faultline and rightly asked for the firms' argument to be expanded. The problem is that it cannot be.

Public interest is the last issue the accounting firms, or indeed any other part of the profession, should take a stand over. Professions have a public interest dimension. But in these days of declining deference and increasing consumer and individual rights, the arguments sound thin and are certainly not going to provide the knockout blow in any debate.

This really means the firms have nowhere to turn. It looks as though a good court case to provide a precedent is unlikely to be fought to a conclusion. The recent settling of the Carrian case in Hong Kong showed that. The large negligence cases will always be settled at the behest of the insurers years after the event because insurers know they will get a good settlement only if the process can be dragged out. And any lessons to be learnt from such cases relate to such long-gone events that they provide little which would help reform current systems. The Scots ICA has come up with a plan. But its working party has hardly helped the case of the big firms. Resorting to local legal jargon, it says "the public interest aspects of the case for reform of the rules on auditors' liability are not proven". And to clarify the position, it calls for "independent authoritative research controlled by the regulatory authorities" into public interest aspects.This frankly is another own goal. Any DTI civil servant whose memory goes back as far as 1989 could pop along to the relevant pigeonhole and find a copy of the Likierman report filed there. That was an independent report, commissioned by the Secretary of State no less. And it provided, five years ago, all the arguments the DTI needs. The only revision would be to update the amounts in the litigation pending column.

Further independent research might come up with an argument that would leave the DTI no option but to recommend new legislation to allow the firms to limit their liability even more. But that is unlikely. The answer is that the issue is now, even more clearly, up to the firms to resolve. The Government will probably adopt a wait and see approach, particularly with the firms moving, they say, towards incorporation of audit businesses. They have always argued this will do nothing to ease the litigation crisis. But it has given the DTI another chance to wait and see.

Brassed off with top brass

THE rebellious London Society of Chartered Accountants held a members' forum on Tuesday. And with contentious issues on the agenda it decided to invite the English ICA's chief executive and president along. After all the LSCA is the largest member body in the institute and the institute is always saying that it wants to listen to its members. Sadly neither man was available. The LSCA offered to switch the event to any date that they were available. "None" remained the answer. Small wonder that during a question on defending members' interests, one member pointed out that the use of the word "defending" suggests they were under attack and loudly proclaimed that the only organisation attacking him was his institute.

Rewarding

WHILE the institute was turning a deaf ear to its members, it was also rewarding the spirit of listening. The English ICA is one of the sponsors of the charity accounts awards that have done so much in recent years to improve financial reporting in charities. One of the year's winners was Childline, the creator of the telephone counselling service for children.

Powering in

SPARE a thought for Mike Power, the chartered accountant managing director of software distribution company, Masterkey. He was so impressed with an Indian software package for small businesses that he converted his accounts into rupees to use it. Now it is available in the UK. And he probably needs some advice on foreign exchange gains and losses as he seeks to convert the rupees back.

Tate that

IT TAKES a mighty achievement to get Arthur Andersen to present an award to one of its competitors. But Ernst & Young has managed it. This week at the business sponsorship awards the Andersen award for best first-time sponsor went to E&Y for its efforts in sponsoring the Tate Gallery's Picasso exhibition.

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Management skills necessary with thorough knowledge of Options Markets. Education to Degree level.

Annual salary £25,000 plus benefit package.

Please write with C.V. to:

Box No: 2237

Share slide continues

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
823	380	Abbey Nat	403	- 9	4.8	13.5
314	233	Allied Irish	243	- 5	6.2	9.5
2210	171	Anz New Z	198	+ 1	6.6	*
2000	1462½	Bank Americ	1462½	- 25	3.1	*
247	172½	Bank Scotland	203	- 6	3.3	11.4
640	467	Barclays	588	- 4	3.5	17.8
319	246	Bk of Ireland	288	- 5	5.1	8.2
2912½	2282½	Citicorp	2606½	- 37½	...	...
2850	2081	Close Bros	2241	- 4	4.2	*
6125½	4727½	Commercial	6131½	- 281½	6.2	...
1296	1056½	Dbl Trin Kin Y	1079½	- 12½	0.5	...
8344½	7270½	Deutsche Bk	8298	- 768½	2.3	...
1315½	787½	Espirito Santo	869½	...	4.4	4.3
80	60	First Nat Fin	65	...	2.9	*
1549½	1152½	Fuji Bank Y	1246½	- 12½	0.4	...
473	336	Hambros	333	- 7	8.6	9.0
1113	860	HSBC	1097½	- 16½	4.3	10.2
1136	886	HSBC Hk	1078½	- 16½	4.4	10.2
462	360	Lloyds (L)	418	...	5.8	12.2
883	724	Midland Ban	878	- 15	5.0	8.4
668	519	Lloyds	573	- 3	5.6	11.3
600½	472	Nat Aust Bk	511	+ 3	4.8	9.3
852	651	Nat West	801	- 8	4.8	*
3200	2100	Ottoman Bank	2100	- 6	6.8	*
79	53	Rea Bros	61	- 1	9.8	17.1
688	577½	Rnl Bk Scot	642½	- 9½	3.4	10.8
1574	1268	Schroders	1405	- 15	3.6	12.8
1496	1043	Schroders NV	1285	- 15	3.8	11.8
114	78	Singer & Fried	98	- 1	4.6	10.3
368½	253	Stand Chart	321	- 9	2.8	9.3
391	197	TSB	215½	+ ½	4.2	11.1
1012	589	Warburg Brh	951	- 24	4.5	11.9
7165	5612½	Wells Fargo	5962½	+ 75	3.0	*
280	164	Westpac	199½	+ ½	3.7	*
390	210	Winkurs	215	- 3	6.0	14.4

BREWERIES

10½	1½	Accsr Hldgs	1½	...	...	...
615	465	Bass	527	- 1	5.9	13.0
299	248	Boddington	258	- 2	4.1	12.7
196	168	Burtwood Brwr	178	...	3.6	15.6
181	142	Eldridge P ¼	167	+ 1	2.7	20.2
58	46½	Fosters Brewing	54	...	5.4	*
406	375	Gath Sns 'A'	377	...	2.6	15.6
511	399	Greenalls Gp	419	- 7	3.8	16.1
984	852	Greene King	938	- 8	3.8	13.0
265	230	Hardy Hanso	255	- 2	3.4	13.5
178	135	Hawkins	150	...	3.4	13.5
3773	3125	Holt J	3375	- 60	1.8	18.6
314	256	Marston Thmp	302	- 1	2.5	13.2
545	453	Morland	498	- 5	2.7	*
19½	6½	Paramount	7½	- ½	3.4	*
303	269	Regnal Inns	297	- 2	2.3	22.5
1668½	1000	SA Breweries	1534½	...	1.9	33.8
581	427	Scot & Nwc	560	- 4	4.2	15.6
306	228	Vaux Group	240	- 2	5.0	15.5
438	334½	Wellingtonn JDt	434	- 1	1.9	23.9
617	494	Whitbread	547	- 1	4.4	14.8
589	495	Wolverhmpn O	535	- 4	3.9	15.8
188	148	Yates Bros	188	...	3.2	20.1
536	480	Young 'A'	483	...	3.9	20.1

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

205	135	Alloy	135	...	4.9	8.6
360	148	Alton	163	...	4.9	19.3
154½	79	Amec	86½	- 4	4.7	46.2
200	148	Anthony Sykes	165	...	...	...
462	333	Ashtead	433	- 5	1.6	27.4
181	103	Avenue Ind	103	- 5	5.3	12.1
41	28	Bailey (Eric) Con	34	- 2	2.6	30.8
18	14	Barrow	16	- 3	3.1	5.0
252	169½	Beazer Hmes	174	- 1	4.3	*
172	122½	Bovis Homes	139	- 4	4.9	10.8
304	178	Bellway	287	- 2	4.3	*
39	31	Bothwick	31	...	...	27.3
570	370	Bovis Gp	378	+ 2	2.3	15.7
215	118	Brit Bmt	181	- 1	3.2	*
305	218	Brit (Henry)	218	- 6	3.9	10.5
84	35	Brandon Hire	77	- 1	2.4	*
218	166	Br Bldg & Eng	166	- 1	6.3	9.9
185½	126	Bryant	136	- 3	5.3	6.9
145½	111½	CALA	113	...	3.1	15.8
54	31	Campbell & Ann	36	- 2	...	...
62	44	Clarke T	49	...	3.2	41.6
23	19	Cochrn	21½	- ½	...	...
185	113	Countryside	113	- 1	4.5	25.1
128	98	Crst Nicholson	80	- 3	2.5	14.6
149	108	Costain	108	...	4.1	12.4
39	18	Edmond Hdgst	21	...	1.8	*
473	321	Ev & Comp	323	- 2	3.1	13.2
60	24	Galliford	24	...	5.2	*
112	87	Gibbs & Dandy	88	...	3.8	*
1028	823	Glossop (Alf)†	826	- 3	3.1	*
86	77	Green (Eng)†	86	...	8.7	36.5
221	145	Hadson	145	- 4	6.9	13.8
2155½	2108½	Hanson	2108½	- 300½	5.7	*
250	153½	Holiday Chem	219	...	2.5	17.9
892	728	IBA	746	- 15	4.6	60.3
191½	148	Falcon	148½	- ½	3.9	12.3
643	561	Lagonnel	592	- 30	3.8	17.8
55	48	MTM	52	- 1	0.6	*
455	300	Mandoe	300	- 3	4.7	14.6
127	109	Midland Resid	115	...	6.9	*
128	61	Mitchell	64	+ 3	6.9	8.5
679½	556½	Mowlem	662½	- 2	4.3	21.3
349	266	Pevsr	266	...	1.9	22.2
272	185	Scapa	199	- 2	3.8	18.0
56	31	Sheridan Speak	32	...	2.9	19.0
854½	656	Tarmac Chem	770½	- 14½	0.8	14.2
490	357	Wardle Storeys	362	...	6.3	18.8
230	182	Wellington Hdg	183	...	3.3	18.6
825	570	Wimpey H	785	...	3.8	16.4
385	307	Yorks Chem	332	- 3	3.0	16.4
336	258	Yrk Const	304	- 2	3.6	21.6

BUILDING MATERIALS

27	12	Albrigton	15	...	4.2	14.4
341	263	Alumasc	336	...	2.3	*
65½	43½	Amberley Gp	51	- 1	2.5	27.9
1635	1250	Blue Circle	1300	- 14	4.9	20.5
45	33	Bmgrndge Brk	33	- 1	3.3	22.5
80	34	Bonsor	34	- 2	7.4	*
244	135	Boreland Ind	215	- 3	...	*
53	38	Blackburst	52	- 1	1.8	*
281	202	Brn Cndsd	265	- 11	4.8	20.8
117	77	Brecon PLC	85	...	6.8	24.3
154	128	Br Dredgngrs	133	...	5.3	16.8
488	321	CRH	344	- 6	2.8	17.5
70	31	Chestnut Fby	38	...	...	*
278	233	Clar	259	...	3.9	14.8
455	354	Cmbrdan	389	- 9	4.1	17.8
215½	137½	Cmdon Int	152	- 3½	7.1	*
83	46	Chatcan Gp	54	...	6.1	10.8
124	69	Dyson (JD)	69	...	4.3	14.8
97	69	Dyson 'A'	69	- 1	6.3	10.4
11½	4½	Eclipse Blinds	8½	- ½	2.8	*
369	273	Ennis	340	- 5	3.4	17.2
62	37	Ennstt	57	- 1	3.0	23.5
218	160	Galen Gp	160	- 3	3.4	16.3
358	287	Halstead (J)	352	...	2.7	16.2
511	384	Hepworth	438	- 3	5.8	18.2
88	66	Hewden	85	- 3	2.2	14.7
395	86	Heath (J)	87	...	...	*
276	176	Hepworth Wtn	276	- 8	3.6	15.6
188	97	Hobcroft	97	...	7.1	*
394	149	Ashcraft	267	...	2.1	12.1
170	145	Ibstock†	145	- 3	4.1	15.2
210½	148	Marley	148	...	3.6	17.2
155	138	Marshalls	145	...	3.4	17.9
568	350	Meyer Int	350	- 5	3.9	13.5
186	146	Newman Tnlc	172	- 1	4.7	21.7
212½	114	Norcros	114	- 3	7.9	21.8
9	3	Phoenix Timber	3	...	...	*
208	162	Pilkington	180	...	2.8	7.8
185	126	Polypipe	145	...	4.1	15.2
109½	80	RMC Gpf	97½	- 11	2.7	20.2
22	15	Ransa	15	...	...	*
648	448	Redbland†	464	- 10	6.7	21.5
188	78	Redpt	96	...	5.6	*
169½	114	Rugby Group	124	- 3	3.5	19.5
163	92	Ruskell (W)	92	...	3.3	18.3
398	252	SIG	252	- 2	3.2	21.8
21	16	SMP	16	...	3.6	10.1
200	155	Sharpe & Fisher	177	...	2.7	17.3
51	37	Sisprp Rare	37	- ½	2.7	41.1
157	97	Smedley	97	- 2	4.0	30.5
170	123	Warmenhve	130	...	4.0	14.9
74	48	Ward Hldgs	54	- 1	1.2	*
225½	143	Westbury†	143	- 3	4.7	13.0
7½	3½	Wigpnt	3½	- ¼	...	*
292	171	Wilson (C)	172	- 2	3.1	14.3
571	332	Wilson Bowrn	333	- 5	3.6	14.9
249	130	Wimpey G	135	+ 1	4.9	20.2

BUSINESS SERVICES

2¼	1½	Anglo Ind	2	...	...	...
110	73	Apb Hldg	78	- 5	...	...
165	107	Ashwells	115	- 1	5.4	...
11	6½	Bailey (CH)	6½	...	...	...
48	39	Blacs Arnm	43	- 1	9.3	10.2
124	78	Bt Bloodstock	77	- 2	...	69.1
13	5½	Chard Gp	6	...	...	16.7
16½	4½	Chemex	6½	...	...	...
1557	109	Cscall	153	- 1	0.8	10.4
259	168	Filtrtn	253	- 5	1.2	19.1
90	76	Hamleys	87	- 1	2.4	20.8
360	234	Hunsbck	344	- 1	2.4	20.8
246	177	Leigh	177	- 2	5.5	16.2
224	124	Nelsn Gp	220	...	3.3	14.5
210	207	Prestbury(Mt)	244	...	2.5	25.5
69	38	Plant & Genl	38	- 1	2.6	*
185	82	Plazacrnds	170	...	2.5	20.4
12½	5½	Porth Geog	6	- ½	...	...
17	5½	Rotherg	11	...	...	...
139	78	Sheats & McEwan	90½	- 2½	4.5	*
244	174	Sinclair (Wm)	187	...	4.8	14.4
769	483	Waste Mgt Int	528	- 11	...	19.2

CHEMICALS

156½	115½	Allied Colloids	131	- 1	3.2	21.0
798	705	Amber Ind	750	...	3.4	16.2
6140½	5106½	BASF 3M	6132½	- 302½	7.6	*
757	627	BOC	697	- 16	4.3	26.1
373	281	BTP	284	- 5	4.4	17.8
6190½	6129½	Bayer DM50	6137½	- 119½	6.5	*
131	98	Brent Chemst	104½	- 2	4.8	*
309	219	Br Vita	224	- 2	4.2	16.7
23	18	Cambridge Isa	19	...	...	*
199	152	Cumnng (WH)	196	...	4.9	31.3
587	425	Elementis	428	- 15	4.4	33.9
389	327	Croda†	352	- 2	3.0	15.1
143	95	Dodfss	134	...	4.3	13.5
68½	35½	Euro Colour	64½	- ½	2.7	18.5
249	182	Gddrnd'G	238	...	5.0	12.9
221	145	Hickson	145	- 4	6.9	13.8
6155½	5108½	Hoechst	6139½	- 300½	5.7	*
250	153½	Holiday Chem	219	...	2.5	17.9
892	728	IBA	746	- 15	4.6	60.3
191½	148	Falcon	148½	- ½	3.9	12.3
643	561	Lagonnel	592	- 30	3.8	17.8
55	48	MTM	52	- 1	0.6	*
455	300	Mandoe	300	- 3	4.7	14.6
127	109	Midland Resid	115	...	6.9	*
128	61	Mitchell	64	+ 3	6.9	8.5
679½	556½	Mowlem	662½	- 2	4.3	21.3
349	266	Pevsr	266	...	1.9	22.2
272	185	Scapa	199	- 2	3.8	18.0
56	31	Sheridan Speak	32	...	2.9	19.0
854½	656	Tarmac Chem	770½	- 14½	0.8	14.2
490	357	Wardle Storeys	362	...	6.3	18.8
230	182	Wellington Hdg	183	...	3.3	18.6
825	570	Wimpey H	785	...	3.8	16.4
385	307	Yorks Chem	332	- 3	3.0	16.4
336	258	Yrk Const	304	- 2	3.6	21.6

DISTRIBUTORS

127	106	AB Lea	106	...	4.5	*
396	246	Acal	261	...	2.9	18.2
576	263	Adam & Harvey	560	- 10	3.6	7.6
31	21	Alexandrn	21	...	3.8	19.5
175	117	Applegrn	117	- 1	6.2	20.8
6	3½	Ash & Lacy	4½	...	1.4	56.6
578	465	BBS Group	520	...	4.3	21.7
354	17	Bearing Power	33½	...	4.6	14.9
605	249	Bentley Mtr	252	...	5.1	16.5
48	29	Bisset 'A'	29	...	3.1	*
370	288	Bremner	337	- 2	4.6	15.7
31	19½	Bridport Gtr	19	...	4.8	...
318	178	Brit Polyprd	311	- 2	3.5	...
97	46	Brown S Tanna	46	...	...	...
97	35	Burndene	60	+ 2	6.0	12.2
465	245	Cdnys	260	- 5	5.1	18.9
288	224½	Cookson	237	- 1	5.2	14.7
1350	940	Coated Pic	1340	- 6	4.5	18.9
248	201	Cmbg Mk	231	- 6	4.6	17.4
1350	1125	Dng Motors	1265	...	5.8	16.1
688	499½	Dimmons B	580	...	4.7	16.5
1000	800	Dpharm	1000	- 5	3.9	*
1135	1035	Electrocomponents	1135	- 1	3.5	18.9
175	133	Electron Hses	157	- 1	2.5	16.2
283	203	Elec & Genrnl	266	- 1	3.7	16.9
224	201	Emmerdale	201	- 1	4.5	12.3
173	108	Emmerson Hse	118	- 1	4.5	12.3
539	395	Evans Halshaw	395	- 3	5.8	10.2
688	499½	Farnell Elect	552	- 5	1.5	21.4
97	39	Fitz Indstr	97	...	5.6	9.0
34	17½	Gamlan	17½	- ½	5.4	8.3
46	21½	Glenchewton	23	...	...	24.3
97	68	Gowrings	73	...	3.4	22.2
98	68	Hallen Hdgs	77	- ½	...	*
348½	286½	Hanley	316½	- 1½	3.4	14.7
197	88	Hobbs Tech	92	- 3	6.5	10.0
139	118	ISA Intr	113	- 4	3.9	14.1
88	65	Jacks (Wm)	68	- 4	4.3	14.4
184	145	Kath Fit	162	...	3.1	18.6
280	195	Lex Service	238	- 7	5.0	12.8
282	162	Lookers	162	...	4.4	12.1
20	19½	Mckay Sp	19½	- ½	17	*
7½	3½	Mcbrnce Gp	3½	...	...	*
46	37	Mortimer H	37	- 10	6.7	20.1
188	141	Mrchstone	168	...	5.1	18.2
161	142	Ellridge P 'A'	167	+ 1	2.7	20.2
81	46½	Owens Thomas	54	...	3.7	*
375	279	Pntn Sns 'A'	347	...	2.6	15.6
511	399	Grnsqds Gp	419	- 7	3.8	16.1
984	852	Greene King	938	- 8	3.8	13.0
265	230	Hardy Hanso	255	- 2	3.4	13.5
178	135	Hawkins	150	...	3.4	13.5
3773	3125	Holt J	3375	- 60	1.8	18.6
314	256	Marston Thmp	302	- 1	2.5	13.2
545	453	Morland	498	- 5	2.7	*
19½	6½	Paramount	7½	- ½	3.4	*
303	269	Regnal Inns	297	- 2	2.3	22.5
1668½	1000	SA Breweries	1534½	...	1.9	33.8
581	427	Scot & Nwc	560	- 4	4.2	15.6
306	228	Vaux Group	240	- 2	5.0	15.5
438	334½	Wellingtonn JDt	434	- 1	1.9	23.9
617	494	Whitbread	547	- 1	4.4	14.8
589	495	Wolverhmpn O	535	- 4	3.9	15.8
188	148	Yates Bros	188	...	3.2	20.1
536	480	Young 'A'	483	...	3.9	20.1

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

202	148	Advanta†	157	- 1	6.0	16.0
280	199½	Ashtdgstrst	253	- 2	1.4	26.1
62	48	Arnocrt	48	...	4.5	*
691	772½	Bodnm Hll	284	- 22	5.5	35.0
401	293½	BTR†	284	- 13½	5.5	15.0
570	372	BMY	441	- 12	5.9	11.5
91	49	Bibby (J)	69	- 3	3.6	*
97½	44	Bhnny Inv	47	- 1½	9.3	*
31	10½	Carson S	12½	...	...	4.8
856	636½	Charter	748	- 7	3.8	21.3
286	225½	Cookson†	242	- 5	3.4	21.8
286	225½	Cookson†	242	- 5	3.4	21.8
465	265	Colbys	265	- 5	5.1	18.9
188	146	Hanson Cnstrl	168	- 1	4.8	18.2
369½	240	Hardy Mnrng	248	- 2	2.7	18.4
710	469½	Jardine Math	469½	- 12½	3.3	18.0
38	17½	Jourdn (Th)†	30	...	4.2	29.8
1315½	1124½	Lonrho	1265½	- 1½	3.2	42.7
44	15	Meyer Chadbn	20	...	...	*
705	522	Powell Dufryn	548	- 5	5.4	15.6
164	118½	Rgnent	132	...	7.1	15.0
488	337	Rshmans	418	- 7	3.9	23.3
195	157	Sime Darby	165	- 1	3.3	16.9
257	185	Siebe†	185	- 3½	3.7	19.2
230	161	Soler	164	- 2	7.1	15.8
238	220	TT Group	234	- 3	2.4	*
283	202	Tomkins	202	- 4	4.2	14.3
124	74½	Tubridge H	80	- 1½	6.3	*
440	245	Unilever	395	- 4	1.6	24.0
324	340½	Wassall	288	...	...	*
13½	9½	Wdsay	10	...	...	*
414½	322	Williams Hldg	345	- 8	4.7	21.3

ELECTRICITY

894½	610½	East Midlands†	761	- 12	4.2	60.1
866	666	Eastern Grp	805	- 3	3.6	17.5
752	534	London Elec	696	- 12	4.1	10.5
791	577½	Manweb	781	- 12	3.8	9.5
580	547	Midlands Elec	580	- 7	3.8	11.8
1050	404½	Midland Powr	488	- 6	3.3	13.5
856	598	Nthrn Ireland	784	- 10	3.8	10.0
823	582	Norweb	783	- 7	3.7	10.3
477	367	Pwrgn-Elect	433	- 4	4.9	10.2
266	197	Scottish Power	256	- 6	4.6	11.1
453	298	Seeboard	414	- 6	3.5	11.0
849	591	Sth Wales	784	- 8	4.0	10.8
824	591	Sth Western	786	- 13	3.8	10.1
837	540	Southern Elec	786	- 13	3.6	12.3
766	532	Yorkshire Elec	719	- 8	4.1	14.9

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

108	63	Acorn Comp	107	...	...	...
198	163	Alba	195	- 1	3.4	15.0
50	29½	Anderstff	29½	- 2	2.1	...
39	24	Arlen	33	...	...	...
94½	78	Aspic	89½	- 2	1.3	17.3
201	118	Aspn	198	- 4	2.7	11.2
479	295	BICC†	393	- 18	7.2	20.7
330	250	Backs Hunter	265	...	4.6	*
856	598	Nthrn Ireland	784	- 10	3.8	10.0
823	582	Norweb	783	- 7	3.7	10.3
477	367	Pwrgn-Elect	433	- 4	4.9	10.2
266	197	Scottish Power	256	- 6	4.6	11.1
453	298	Seeboard	414	- 6	3.5	11.0
849	591	Sth Wales	784	- 8	4.0	10.8
824	591	Sth Western	786	- 13	3.8	10.1
837	540	Southern Elec	786	- 13	3.6	12.3
766	532	Yorkshire Elec	719	- 8	4.1	14.9

ENGINEERING

185	119	AIM	165	- 1	3.4	44.0
220	157	ASW	181	- 1	9.0	...
196	201½	Aero Inmdate	201½	- 1	19.7	2.5
21½	14	Aerospace Eng	16	- 1	9.9	45.4
73	37½	Aveb	44	- 1	2.7	30.6
175	153	Ash & Lacy	153	...	5.2	15.9
553	480	Atlas Copco†	545	...	5.2	15.9
125	66	Avocet Hstn	66	...	1.5	19.6
51	24½	Bhl Gp	34½	...	...	...
49½	39½	Babcock	39½	...	...	...
176	135	Bamf	135	...	...	...
88	64	Bayliss (Charles)	64	- 1	6.2	20.7
139	98	Bellairs	98	- 1	2.5	21.8
328	120	Bellam Ld	120	...	...	...
309	262	Bodycote†	309	- 9	4.7	8.8
278	243	Boots Isds	243	- 1	2.2	21.1
31	19	Brooks	19	- 1	...	...
171	132	Bulgin	157	...	4.0	16.6
535	402	Bwk	414	- 1	3.1	16.6
388	286	Bowthorpe†	388	- 8	3.1	16.4
21½	14½	Bulgn (AF) 'A'	19½	- ½	1.9	9.6
283	241	Cmf. Micro	241	- 7	3.1	15.4
34½	24	Chloride	24½	...	0.5	67.6
117	81	Coppmore	107	- 6	5.1	*
202	154	Cray Elect	157	- 5	3.8	18.3
467	412	Critchley	458	...	2.3	10.2
586	430	Delta†	470	- 6	3.9	20.1
580	480	Dowtne	533	+ 7	2.0	22.9
78	63	Dowding Mills	68	...	4.6	25.2
1635	1250	Dnnd	1460	...	0.9	27.2
3750	2300	Electrolux 'B'	3539½	- 128½	3.6	54.8
38½	21	Epwss	30½	- ½	0.4	*
4040½	2737½	Ericsson 'B'	3790½	+ 81½	1.0	32.6
88	56	Eurocopy	64	...	3.5	16.9
451	343	Eurotherm	393	- 9	1.6	22.7
450	334½	Exmy Group	378	- 6	2.1	20.5
263	185	Fenner Gp	185	...	3.4	11.1
1173	1155	Ferranti Int Wts	1155	...	...	...
539½	395	Evans Halshaw	395	- 3	5.8	10.2
688	499½	Farnell Elect†	552	- 5	1.5	21.4
97	39	Fitz Indstr	97	...	5.6	9.0
34	17½	Gamlan	17½	- ½	5.4	8.3
46	21½	Glenchewton	23	...	...	24.3
97	68	Gowrings	73	...	3.4	22.2
98	68	Hallen Hdgs	77	- ½	...	*
348½	286½	Hanley	316½	- 1½	3.4	14.7
197	88	Hobbs Tech	92	- 3	6.5	10.0
139	118	ISA Intr	113	- 4	3.9	14.1
88	65	Jacks (Wm)	68	- 4	4.3	14.4
184	145	Kath Fit	162	...	3.1	18.6
280	195	Lex Service	238	- 7	5.0	12.8
282	162	Lookers	162	...	4.4	12.1
20	19½	Mckay Sp	19½	- ½	17	*
7½	3½	Mcbrnce Gp	3½	...	...	*
46	37	Mortimer H	37	- 10	6.7	20.1
188	141	Mrchstone	168	...	5.1	18.2
161	142	Ellridge P 'A'	167	+ 1	2.7	20.2
81	46½	Owens Thomas	54	...	3.7	*
375	279	Pntn Sns 'A'	347	...	2.6	15.6
511	399	Grnsqds Gp	419	- 7	3.8	16.1
984	852	Greene King	938	- 8	3.8	13.0
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS, LTD				
0800 258783.				
Emerald Assur	152.30	161.60†	– 2.60	0.42
Emerald Equity	227.80	242.20	– 4.80	1.26
Emerald Euro	152.40	162.00	– 4.80	0.33
Emerald Eqt Bd	111.70	118.80		5.87
Emerald Gilt	72.40	74.73	+ 0.42	5.18
Emerald Japan	173.10	183.80‡	– 0.70	...
ARK EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
0293 539 221				
Balanced Acc	537.60	548.10	– 10.70	2.66
Balanced Inc	467.60	476.80	– 9.50	2.66
UK Growth Acc	342.70	364.00†	– 7.30	2.66
UK Growth Inc	234.60	249.00†	– 5.30	2.66
Higher Inc Acc	645.60	686.00†	– 12.40	4.06
Higher Inc Inc	372.10	397.00†	+ 7.10	4.06
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	781.00	830.10	+ 1.00	6.66
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	85.42	90.39	+ 0.44	6.66
Nth America	246.80	262.40†	– 5.60	...
Far East	342.70	364.00†	– 7.10	0.05
Europe	238.70	253.50†	– 4.40	0.84
Intl Growth	67.56	71.80†	– 1.40	0.84
Intl Fxdinc Acc	97.39	103.40	– 1.50	4.97
Intl Fxdinc Inc	71.29	75.80	– 0.84	4.97
Global Opps	79.89	85.00†	– 1.51	0.40
Balanced Acc	82.01	85.39†	– 1.70	3.10
Balanced Inc	59.98	64.24†	– 1.70	3.10
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 072				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	128.10	136.00	+ 0.70	5.88
High Inc Equity	154.40	165.10†	+ 0.90	3.77
Worldwide Bond	254.20	268.80†	+ 0.80	3.86
Capital Growth				
American Growth	268.10	285.60	– 5.40	.80
Asian Pacific	268.60	284.80	– 10.00	0.05
Assets & Equities	248.60	264.50†	– 6.10	2.02
Commdty & Energy	197.80	214.70	– 4.70	.04
Euro Capital Inc	128.70	136.50	– 2.90	.72
(Accum Units)	135.90	144.70	– 3.10	.71
General	212.00	226.20	– 3.60	2.46
Japan	125.70	133.70	– 0.50	...
Manchester	138.30	145.80	– 3.10	1.61
UK Growth Dist	134.00	121.90†	– 1.10	2.48
UK Growth Inc	134.00	142.60	– 3.00	...
Income & Growth	252.20	268.30†	– 7.20	2.24
Ethical	85.82	92.00†	– 1.70	0.91
International	113.50	120.70	– 1.50	.55
Dividend & Growth	58.36	62.11	– 1.89	4.92
Global Gwth & Inc	66.84	70.41	– 0.07	2.97
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	218.54	216.30		...
ARTHUR UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 388				
Amer Inc & Growth	40.78	42.91†	– 0.90	0.73
Cash	50.59	50.59		4.47
European	105.50	110.20	– 1.70	...
Energy	955.50	810.25†	– 7.70	1.80
Extra Income ##	47.69	50.26	– 0.01	6.02
Far East Emg Eqs	172.40	181.10	– 2.60	0.53
Fixed Interest ##	74.94	78.89	– 12.40	4.06
Fund Inv Tst	171.60	180.60‡	– 3.30	0.92
Japan	185.80	194.10	– 0.50	...
Latin American	78.19	73.68	– 0.74	0.06
Pacific	70.77	74.42	– 1.30	0.56
Property Shares	62.19	65.28	– 0.49	2.06
UK Emerging Cos	62.14	65.22	– 0.71	1.80
UK Growth	42.32	44.89†	– 0.77	2.61
UK Wider Mkt Pnt #	70.61	71.15†	– 1.05	2.62
Ethical	58.15	62.09	– 0.27	1.56
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	48.52	48.52	+ 0.07	7.58
For Access Fds see United Kingdom				
AESOP UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
031 548 2252				
British Growth	86.69	78.22‡	– 1.39	2.72
British Income	78.42	84.30†	– 1.65	8.44
United Portfolio	83.82	88.98†	– 1.22	...
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
0462 395 959				
Amity Income	72.70	77.14	– 0.77	0.68
Income Builder Inc	65.41	69.59	– 1.25	0.68
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
FA dlg: 0793 610 366 Client dlg: 0793 514 514				
Balanced Trans				
Growth & Income	217.50	225.50†	– 3.80	3.35
Capital	382.80	406.20†	– 6.10	2.02
Balanced	648.40	681.00	– 9.40	2.86
Accumulator	211.76	222.59†	– 10.06	3.22
Income Trusts				
Investment Income	44.39	47.45	– 0.51	3.75
High Income	573.70	608.40	– 5.80	3.87
Equity Income	212.40	227.00	– 3.10	3.87
High Yield	226.90	242.50†	– 3.70	3.58
Gilt Securities	52.48	54.23†	+ 0.21	8.19
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	131.30	140.30	– 2.40	0.59
European Growth	33.29	35.43	– 0.54	0.81
International	134.60	144.00	– 2.50	0.99
Japan	208.20	222.00	– 6.50	0.81
Pacific	204.10	421.20	– 9.10	0.61
Sons of Amalgs	395.30	411.30†	– 7.20	0.58
Worldwide Asset Val	45.84	48.10	– 0.78	0.24
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	488.50	522.20†	– 9.10	2.44
Cons & Gen	42.37	45.29	– 0.41	5.62
Smaller Cos	158.50	169.40	– 1.60	1.61
2nd Smaller Cos	158.10	168.40	– 1.10	1.61
Recovery	122.50	130.20†	– 1.70	1.92
Mkt Mkr & Cnty	142.50	152.30†	– 3.00	0.78
Quest Savings	328.70	351.30	– 6.70	1.58
Technology	133.80	134.50†	– 0.20	0.07
UK Special Sits	421.20	450.20	– 8.20	1.82
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0535 636 011				
Capital Gut Pass	97.02	100.80‡	–	1.65
Fixedinc Pass Pass	91.56	93.89†	–	4.00
BSA-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	68.83	71.70	– 1.57	1.85
International	68.91	64.00	– 2.10	...
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
031 222 4242				
Americas	267.40	286.00	– 0.60	...
Bond	108.56	114.20†	– 0.70	7.29
Brit Emgr Cos	85.32	101.40	– 0.66	1.59
Dstr Prfnce #	97.05	102.95	– 0.20	6.59
Energy	412.00	440.00	– 4.20	0.11
Europe	212.20	226.40†	– 3.70	0.48
Euro Emgr Cos	97.85	104.60†	– 1.30	0.05
Income Growth	357.30	349.30	– 4.50	4.59
Japan	323.30	344.40†	– 3.80	...
Pacific	102.80	108.40†	– 3.80	0.70
UK Smlr Cos	50.18	53.26	– 0.26	1.16
Japan Fd	731.40	753.50	– 1.30	...
Mngd Fd	184.70	175.10†	– 2.20	3.08
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
071 469 8573				
Bal & Overs	270.10	284.80	...	1.30
Capital Gwth	188.20	112.50	...	2.35
Wrldwide Oppn	178.30	188.30	...	0.43
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
081 594 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Bnd Inv Fd Inc	925.30	988.80†	– 8.70	3.06
European Bd Inc	68.73	91.85	+ 0.07	7.78
Exempt	68.69	74.34†	– 1.53	4.42
Financial	68.89	73.46†	– 1.41	2.87
Gilt & Fxd Int	424.20	453.30	– 5.40	2.72
General	258.40	274.20	– 5.40	2.72
Property	251.30	268.80	...	6.0
Trustinv	172.20	184.80	– 3.6	2.57
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.50	100.50†	...	4.55
Extra Income	114.10	117.80†	– 1.90	4.30
Gilt & Fxd Int	55.45	57.30†	+ 0.08	8.09
Income	466.70	500.40	– 9.20	4.92
Income Builder	39.89	42.80	– 0.06	4.92
Monthly Inc	68.88	+ 64.75	– 1.01	5.64
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	110.80	117.30	– 2.50	2.61
Income	114.50	124.80	– 1.30	1.35
Recovery	95.75	101.40†	– 2.70	2.75
Smlr Cos Inc	41.29	44.18	– 0.30	2.12
Special Sits	264.10	282.40	– 4.50	1.88
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	117.20	124.40†	– 2.80	0.74
Asset Alloc	233.30	248.10	– 4.90	2.23
Asst Inc	145.00	154.30	– 3.10	2.23
East Gwth Inc	143.10	151.70	– 3.40	0.64
(Accum Units)	158.10	167.90	– 3.70	0.64
Europe & Gen Inc	138.10	146.60	– 3.00	...
(Accum Units)	154.20	165.10	– 3.70	...
Japan Spec Sits	83.86	88.84	– 0.24	...
Latin Tech Inc	76.77	81.38	– 1.70	0.19
Worldwide	165.00	173.00	– 3.10	0.78
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
071 628 6000				
Asia Growth Growth	87.89	93.39	– 2.56	...
Asian Smlr Cos	121.08	128.30	– 3.50	...
Convertibles	54.54	58.00	– 0.51	5.50
Eastern	264.00	280.00	– 7.00	0.50
Equity Income	84.79	89.19†	– 0.93	5.00
European Growth	228.40	255.40	– 4.60	1.00
Europe	208.10	222.20	– 1.60	0.50
Extended Growth	91.50	94.89	+ 0.07	0.48
Global Growth	119.90	128.00	– 2.40	...
Japan Growth	268.80	285.10	– 0.90	...
Japan Smlr Cos	177.20	188.90	– 2.40	0.13
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	131.30	140.30	– 2.40	0.59
European Growth	33.29	35.43	– 0.54	0.81
International	134.60	144.00	– 2.50	0.99
Japan	208.20	222.00	– 6.50	0.81
Pacific	204.10	421.20	– 9.10	0.61
Sons of Amalgs	395.30	411.30†	– 7.20	0.58
Worldwide Asset Val	45.84	48.10	– 0.78	0.24
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	488.50	522.20†	– 9.10	2.44
Cons & Gen	42.37	45.29	– 0.41	5.62
Smaller Cos	158.50	169.40	– 1.60	1.61
2nd Smaller Cos	158.10	168.40	– 1.10	1.61
Recovery	122.50	130.20†	– 1.70	1.92
Mkt Mkr & Cnty	142.50	152.30†	– 3.00	0.78
Quest Savings	328.70	351.30	– 6.70	1.58
Technology	133.80	134.50†	– 0.20	0.07
UK Special Sits	421.20	450.20	– 8.20	1.82
BARRING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
071 628 6000				
Continental Growth	87.89	93.39	– 2.56	...
Asian Smlr Cos	121.08	128.30	– 3.50	...
Convertibles	54.54	58.00	– 0.51	5.50
Eastern	264.00	280.00	– 7.00	0.50
Equity Income	84.79	89.19†	– 0.93	5.00
European Growth	228.40	255.40	– 4.60	1.00
Europe	208.10	222.20	– 1.60	0.50
Extended Growth	91.50	94.89	+ 0.07	0.48
Global Growth	119.90	128.00	– 2.40	...
Japan Growth	268.80	285.10	– 0.90	...
Japan Smlr Cos	177.20	188.90	– 2.40	0.13
Income Trust	88.25	88.84	– 0.24	1.46
Portfolio	126.40	135.20	– 2.20	1.89
(Accum Units)	280.50	298.70	– 3.80	1.89
UK Growth	88.40	94.10	– 1.20	2.56
UK Smaller Cos	84.70	90.20†	– 1.20	1.39
Select Managers	71.24	76.29	– 1.08	1.19
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
071 250 3000				
Ind Growth Trust	75.19	79.96	...	...
Special Oppor Inc	54.39	57.85	...	...
BROWN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD				
071 236 6441				
Special Sits	169.10	174.40	– 4.40	1.51
Dividend	90.69	96.30	– 1.40	3.58
Int Gth & Inc	264.40	278.80	– 6.80	2.51
UK & Gen	42.46	45.41	– 0.89	1.99
Fund of Funds	62.76	67.14	– 0.92	...
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
041 225 8000				
Balanced Growth	109.91	108.70‡	– 0.93	1.78
(Accum Units)	113.40	120.84	– 0.97	1.78
Smaller Cos	98.92	105.21†	– 0.57	1.23
Higher Yield #	97.05	70.95	– 1.97	...
Accumulation Gth Inc	97.05	70.95	– 1.97	...
European Growth	129.14	136.88	– 1.55	0.06
(Accum Units)	131.98	139.95	– 1.58	0.06
Global Bond Inc #	25.91	26.72†	– 0.07	1.41
Mngd Profile Inc	46.34	49.29	– 0.07	1.41
(Accum Units)	40.84	43.26	– 0.61	1.41
Mngd Fd Inc	111.90	117.76	– 2.27	0.44
(Accum Units)	125.63	132.84	– 3.56	...
BANK OF SCOTLAND UNICORN UT MGRS LTD				
031 243 8243				
Britannia Trust				
Bnd Inv Fd Inc	925.30	988.80†	– 8.70	3.06
European Bd Inc	68.73	91.85	+ 0.07	7.78
Exempt	68.69	74.34†	– 1.53	4.42
Financial	68.89	73.46†	– 1.41	2.87
Gilt & Fxd Int	424.20	453.30	– 5.40	2.72
General	258.40	274.20	– 5.40	2.72
Property	251.30	268.80	...	6.0
Trustinv	172.20	184.80	– 3.6	2.57
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.50	100.50†	...	4.55
Extra Income	114.10	117.80†	– 1.90	4.30
Gilt & Fxd Int	55.45	57.30†	+ 0.08	8.09
Income	466.70	500.40	– 9.20	4.92
Income Builder	39.89	42.80	– 0.06	4.92
Monthly Inc	68.88	+ 64.75	– 1.01	5.64
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	110.80	117.30	– 2.50	2.61
Income	114.50	124.80	– 1.30	1.35
Recovery	95.75	101.40†	– 2.70	2.75
Smlr Cos Inc	41.29	44.18	– 0.30	2.12
Special Sits	264.10	282.40	– 4.50	1.88
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	117.20	124.40†	– 2.80	0.74
Asset Alloc	233.30	248.10	– 4.90	2.23
Asst Inc	145.00	154.30	– 3.10	2.23
East Gwth Inc	143.10	151.70	– 3.40	0.64
(Accum Units)	158.10	167.90	– 3.70	0.64
Europe & Gen Inc	138.10	146.60	– 3.00	...
(Accum Units)	154.20	165.10	– 3.70	...
Japan Spec Sits	83.86	88.84	– 0.24	...
Latin Tech Inc	76.77	81.38	– 1.70	0.19
Worldwide	165.00	173.00	– 3.10	0.78
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
071 628 6000				
Continental Growth	87.89	93.39	– 2.56	...
Asian Smlr Cos	121.08	128.30	– 3.50	...
Convertibles	54.54	58.00	– 0.51	5.50
Eastern	264.00	280.00	– 7.00	0.50
Equity Income	84.79	89.19†	– 0.93	5.00
European Growth	228.40	255.40	– 4.60	1.00
Europe	208.10	222.20	– 1.60	0.50
Extended Growth	91.50	94.89	+ 0.07	0.48
Global Growth	119.90	128.00	– 2.40	...
Japan Growth	268.80	285.10	– 0.90	...
Japan Smlr Cos	177.20	188.90	– 2.40	0.13
Income Trust	88.25	88.84	– 0.24	1.46
Portfolio	126.40	135.20	– 2.20	1.89
(Accum Units)	280.50	298.70	– 3.80	1.89
UK Growth	88.40	94.10	– 1.20	2.56
UK Smaller Cos	84.70	90.20†	– 1.20	1.39
Select Managers	71.24	76.29	– 1.08	1.19
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
071 250 3000				
Ind Growth Trust Inc	75.19	79.96	...	...
Special Oppor Inc	54.39	57.85	...	...
BRIEWN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD				
071 236 6441				
Special Sits	169.10	174.40	– 4.40	1.51
Dividend	90.69	96.30	– 1.40	3.58
Int Gth & Inc	264.40	278.80	– 6.80	2.51
UK & Gen	42.46	45.41	– 0.89	1.99
Fund of Funds	62.76	67.14	– 0.92	...
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
041 225 8000				
Balanced Growth	109.91	108.70‡	– 0.93	1.78
(Accum Units)	113.40	120.84	– 0.97	1.78
Smaller Cos	98.92	105.21†	– 0.57	1.23
Higher Yield #	97.05	70.95	– 1.97	...
Accumulation Gth Inc	97.05	70.95	– 1.97	...
European Growth	129.14	136.88	– 1.55	0.06
(Accum Units)	131.98	139.95	– 1.58	0.06
Global Bond Inc #	25.91	26.72†	– 0.07	1.41
Mngd Profile Inc	46.34	49.29	– 0.07	1.41
(Accum Units)	40.84	43.26	– 0.61	1.41
Mngd Fd Inc	111.90	117.76	– 2.27	0.44
(Accum Units)	125.63	132.84	– 3.56	...
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
071 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	84.45	85.29	+ 0.03	6.52
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
061 837 9080				
Bonus	145.70	155.00	– 1.80	1.71
Income	159.50	167.90	– 3.10	2.47
UK Growth	124.60	132.60†	– 1.80	4.35
Uit Income				
CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0707 651 122				
Can Gen Dist	177.20	187.80	– 3.50	2.11
-do- Income Dist	161.30	171.00†	– 1.80	4.66
(Accum Units)	169.00	184.30†	– 4.40	4.66
Gilt & Fxd Int	38.37	41.74	+ 0.24	6.52
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
061 236 5685 Exd: 061 236 5685 Dlg: 061 236 5362				
American & Gen	141.10	150.20	– 2.30	3.00
European Inc	73.75	78.19	– 1.24	0.49
Smaller Cos (4-5)	76.85	81.79	– 0.41	1.82
Growth	354.60	400.00	– 8.10	2.42
Income & Growth	385.00	409.00	– 6.90	4.05
Income (Units)	78.49	77.92	– 0.28	...
Japan & Gen	1208.50	1102.67†	– 21.42	2.62
Money Portfolio	2117.30	2121.50	– 2.70	2.32
(Accum Units)	2117.30	2121.50	– 2.70	2.32
Special Sits	81.72	87.58	– 0.84	2.35
High Yield	212.29	212.68†	– 25.69	4.68
CAPITAL HOUSE UNIT TST MGRS				
0171 208 4477 Dealing: 0800 833 551				
American Gwth Tst	38.74	36.89‡	– 0.89	...
Cash Income	50.01	50.01†	...	4.65
European Gwth	37.99	40.20	– 0.64	0.16
Income & Gwth Inc	25.68	27.46	– 0.49	4.86
Intl Gwth	24.12	25.74	– 0.36	0.58
Japan Gwth	27.86	29.68	– 0.05	...
Managed Tst Inc	46.69	49.80	– 0.80	2.09
Pension Gwth Inc	139.80	149.20	– 0.64	0.16
Property Shares	27.86	29.68	– 0.05	...
Smaller Cos	37.39	40.20	– 0.64	0.16
UK Growth Tst	24.31	26.00	– 0.45	3.14
Fixed Interest Investment				
Cap Inst Global Inc	69.45	73.99	– 1.10	3.10
Cap Inst Int Inc	69.45	73.99	– 1.22	3.10
Cap Fin UK Inc	82.55	87.92	– 1.53	2.61
Cap Fin UK Inc	82.55	87.92	– 1.53	2.61
Cap Fin Int Inc	82.55	87.92	– 1.53	2.61
Cap Fin Int	82.55	87.92	– 1.53	2.61
Cap Fin Japan	168.52	177.18	– 3.07	...
Fidelity Pan Cap	264.53	268.21	...	1.92
Fidelity Pan Inc	191.53	203.54†	...	2.59
Fidelity Pan Int	191.53	203.54†	– 1.84	0.69
Fidelity Pan Smlr Cos	137.35	146.12†	...	1.61
Fidelity Pan UK Inc	139.07	147.91†	...	4.36
CAPEL-CURE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
071 377 8815				
Commerce Portfolio	78.69	84.98	– 1.03	2.31
American Portfolio	83.86	89.92	– 1.36	1.22
European Portfolio	88.66	96.76	– 1.44	0.86
Japanese Portfolio	86.16	79.29	– 0.17	...
Pacific Portfolio	1004.47	1068.75	– 4.09	0.69
UK Inc & Growth	71.89	77.03	– 0.86	3.56
Utility & Bond	69.19	73.72	– 0.40	6.95
CENT SO OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
071 898 1815				
Inv Fund	847.20	894.30	...	4.62
Fxd In Sec	146.40	146.75	...	6.86
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
071 282 8800				
UK General Tst	81.81	85.75	– 1.31	3.04
CORE-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD				
071 588 1815				
Inc.	639.05	644.81	...	4.73
Accum	827.11	837.41	...	...
Inc	118.66	119.14	...	9.74
(Accum Units)	181.54	181.65	...	...
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
071 637 7067				
Intl Growth	121.58	132.64	...	...
UK Income	105.70	115.80	...	5.196
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
071 637 5566				
Technology Ind	70.80	75.03‡	– 0.24	1.81
Hack Blo-Tech	24.33	27.10	...	...
Accm Ethical Tst	150.83	158.77	...	1.02
City Fin Accm	89.50	73.94†	...	1.07
City Fin Accm Inc	78.14	82.25	– 1.58	...
City Fin Intl	73.93	77.72†	– 2.23	0.54
City Fin Japn	168.52	177.18	– 3.07	...
Fidelity Pan Cap	264.53	268.21	...	1.92
Fidelity Pan Inc	191.53	203.54†	...	2.59
Fidelity Pan Intl	191.53	203.54†	– 1.84	0.69
Fidelity Pan Smlr Cos	137.35	146.12†	...	1.61
Fidelity Pan UK Inc	139.07	147.91†	...	4.36
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
071 711 6771 Admin: 0277 227 369				
Emerging Markets	55.99	59.41	– 0.88	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0860 573 369				
American Gwth	51.44	55.02	– 1.52	...
Atlas Mngd Gwth	36.67	37.51	– 0.59	0.32
Europe Gwth	68.79	71.49	– 1.02	0.62
Equity High Inc	77.83	82.58	– 1.84	4.10
(Accum Units)	108.84	116.25	– 2.18	4.10
European Gwth	47.71	50.75	– 0.86	0.81
Exempt	27.52	29.43	– 0.58	...
Extended Equity	76.49	80.26	– 1.74	2.84
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	24.04	25.28	+ 0.17	8.24
Japan Growth	51.38	56.48	– 0.20	...
Pacific Gwth	47.52	50.65	– 0.91	2.79
Prop Man Gwth Inc	28.49	30.37	– 0.25	1.10
(Accum Units)	30.64	32.50†	– 0.28	1.10
Retirement Inc #	24.52	25.22	– 0.49	5.85
Special Sits	39.91	39.41	– 0.71	2.82
UK & Overseas	43.05	46.08	– 0.58	1.27
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
081 686 9818				
PRESCIENT PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	149.31	158.84†	– 2.72	5.65
Fixed & Convertible	58.41	60.86†	– 0.19	7.60
Monthly Inc Plus	46.50	48.47	– 0.05	6.96
Preference Shares	44.85	47.71†	+ 0.01	7.69
Growth Funds				
High Yield	116.50	123.93†	– 2.29	7.52
Managed Fund	94.02	98.11†	– 0.70	3.10
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	97.71	49.12	– 0.36	1.69
(Accum Units)	45.14	48.00	– 0.41	0.62
UK & General	73.42	78.11†	– 1.69	2.94
(Accum Units)	91.85	97.70†	– 2.05	2.94
UK Growth	131.65	140.05	– 2.85	2.43
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	178.96	191.45	– 3.08	0.25
Far Eastern Prfc	130.59	138.97	– 3.29	...
Global Bond	74.67	79.79†	+ 0.13	8.43
Japan Growth	128.19	136.98	– 0.22	...
North Amer Gwth	150.16	159.74	– 2.66	...
Pacific Growth	72.25	77.25	– 1.34	...
Worldwide Growth	81.04	84.94†	– 0.70	0.68
OTHER CII TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.97	91.97†	+ 0.01	5.32
Reconvention Fund	73.03	76.55	– 1.27	1.65
Cautious Fund	121.47	129.22	– 2.72	3.85
CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD				
0438 744 940				
Growth Inc	54.84	58.34	– 1.15	3.10
(Accum Units)	58.65	62.39	– 1.22	3.10
High Income	31.70	33.69‡	– 0.45	4.70
Japan	36.04	38.34	– 0.66	...
Smaller Cos Inc	29.35	31.14†	– 0.32	2.59
Smaller Cos	31.01	32.98	– 0.34	2.59
North American	30.48	32.42	– 0.65	0.40
European	35.68	37.91	– 0.65	0.50
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
071 407 5995				
Consistent UT	30.15	32.04	...	3.04
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0666 825 956				
Growth	132.70	141.29†	– 1.10	2.14
Income	67.69	72.02	– 1.35	5.10
European	58.63	62.59†	– 0.57	1.03
Recovery	148.40	155.86	– 3.40	2.65
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071 288 9494				
Equity Dist	795.30	808.00‡	...	4.01
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0277 869 370				
Fellowship Tst	67.45	71.75	– 0.87	1.37
Income #	222.50	237.10†	– 4.10	4.69
(Accum Units) #	548.10	584.10	– 10.00	4.69
Smaller Cos	145.30	154.40	– 1.30	0.87
(Accum Units)	177.10	188.30	– 1.59	0.87
Inv Portfolio	74.74	79.51	– 1.50	1.46
High Inc Port #	84.85	88.59	– 1.15	5.00
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
071 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	218.04	213.39†	...	...
Japan Small Cos	212.57	212.57†	...	...
UK Small Cos	217.21	217.35

Alitalia tempts executives

ALITALIA is offering British executives more convenient flight schedules and lower fares. Next month it will boost the number of London-Milan flights from six to eight a day, while London-Rome services increase from four to five. Savings are as much as £92 off business-class fares.

FARE DEALS

On track

SNCF (French railways) is acting quickly to meet the demand for European rail travel after the introduction of Eurostar. It has opened new branches of "The Railshop" in Manchester and Glasgow in addition to its long-established London office. All have full ticketing facilities. Details: 0345-300003

£100 saving

SAS is offering £100 savings on day-return flights from Manchester to Copenhagen. The airline charges £328, compared with £428 normally, for a day-return business-class fare. Schedules allow a ten-hour stay in Copenhagen.

Portugal-bound

PASSENGERS flying to Lisbon or Oporto qualify for a reduced business-class fare when flying Air Portugal. The airline charges £399 return (usual fare £484), provided passengers spend at least two nights away.

Miles better

EXECUTIVE Club members booking business-class with British Airways Express from Gatwick to Antwerp, Dublin, Dusseldorf, Jersey or Rotterdam earn 500 Air Miles for every return flight taken before December 23.

Go shopping

UNTIL December 10, British Airways is marketing "domestic shopper" fares from ten provincial cities. Passengers fly to London on a Saturday, returning either the same day or the following day. Typical weekend fares are £65 from Belfast, Edinburgh, Newcastle or Plymouth and £61 from Manchester.

No waiting

IMMIGRATION queues at JFK Airport should be a thing of the past when booking Aer Lingus through flights between Manchester and New York. Passengers taking the new service, which starts on December 2, will clear US immigration controls during the en route stopover at Shannon.

Jersey bill

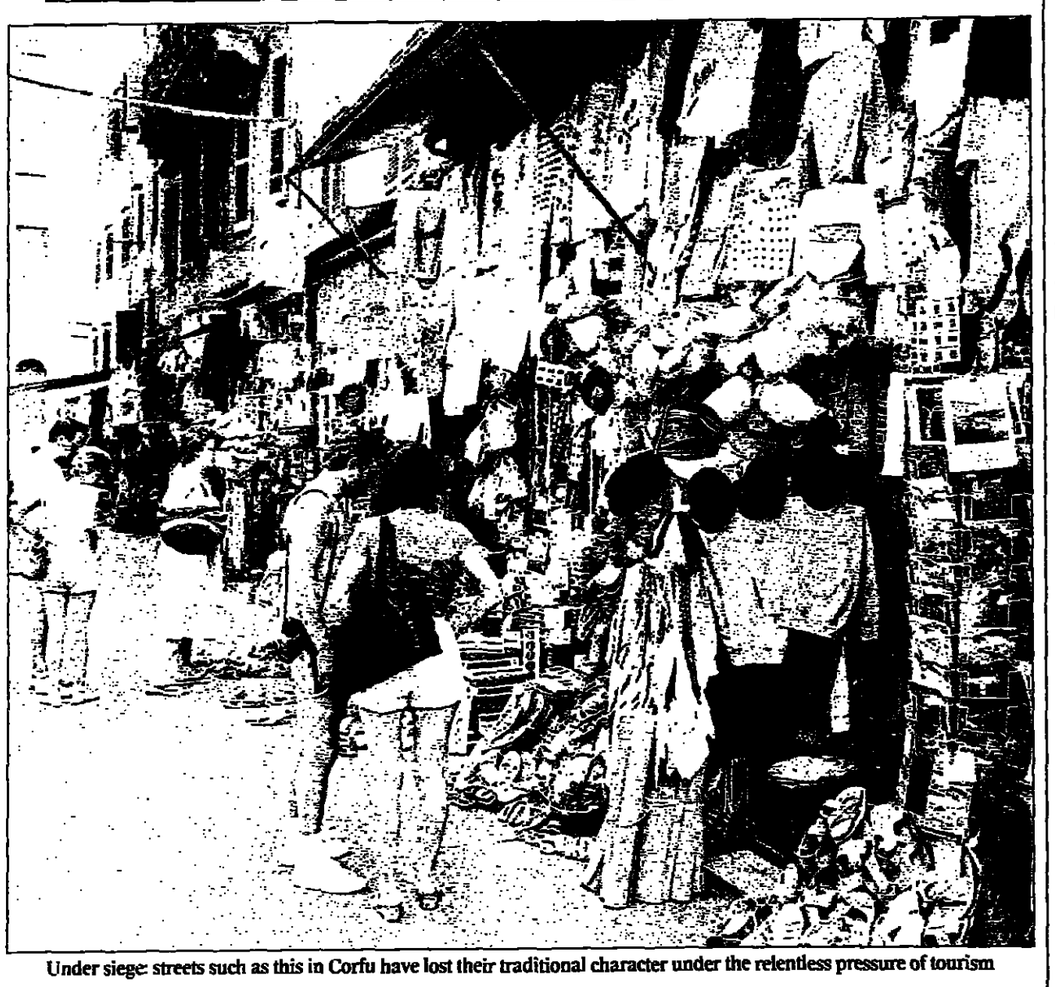
IT costs only £29 one-way to fly from Belfast to London when booking a Jersey European Airways lunchtime flight. The carrier's 1.30pm Belfast City flight reaches Stansted at 2.50pm.

Friendly offer

TWA, the American airline, is providing a free "companion" ticket to transatlantic passengers paying the full economy or business-class fares. Outside the period December 15 to January 15, the offer is valid until mid-March next year.



Marianne Curphey reports on a plan to repair the ravages of tourism



Under siege: streets such as this in Corfu have lost their traditional character under the relentless pressure of tourism

Greece goes upmarket

Amid fears that mass tourism is destroying the appeal of the country, Greece has promised action against illegal hotels and black market activities.

Holidaymakers will be fined for camping illegally and Greeks will be held responsible for damage to sewage and water supply systems and noise pollution.

A huge programme of upgrading hotels is planned in order to free the country from its image of a cheap package holiday destination. The National Tourist Organisation of Greece is increasingly worried that the annual summer influx of tourists looking for cut-price accommodation is wreaking havoc on the country's environment.

Over the past 15 years, a huge increase in hotel beds, both legal and illegal, saturated the market, which has meant that Greece relies almost solely on its low prices to attract foreign visitors.

The majority of tourists come during a short holiday season of about six months and in such large numbers that the country's resources and infrastructure cannot cope, according to Evangelos Giannakoulias, Secretary General of Tourism in Greece.

Now the tourist board wants to promote Greece's architectural heritage and its spas and hot water springs, restore its traditional buildings, establish a series of trails through mountain settlements, protect its forest areas and improve facilities for winter tourism.

New legislation to limit the damage to the environment will include a programme for upgrading existing hotels, investing in high-quality hotels outside the traditional tourist areas, limiting the growth of mass tourism and extending the tourist season.

Tourism is an important part of the country's economy. In 1992, it accounted for 7 per cent of Greece's gross domestic product, and more than 10 per cent of the total working population is employed directly or indirectly in the industry. Tourist numbers are growing by about 1.5 per cent a year — in 1993 total arrivals were more than 9,913,000.

P&O cruises into the giant league

One of the world's biggest liners is being built to meet British tastes

Towering above the foggy fields alongside the River Ems in northern Germany, nearly 30 miles from the North Sea, there stands an enormous grey shed, 60m high and 370m long, bigger than any cathedral. Inside, 2,500 men are creating an ocean-going liner which will soon be launched as the pride of Britain's P&O cruise fleet.

The *Oriana* is going to be in the top ten in the world measured by size, about the same as Cunard's *QE2*, and P&O is sure that she will soon be voted No 1 by British cruise passengers, whose desires she has been designed to satisfy.

The British want sun decks, swimming pools and a real theatre, none of which rate very highly with American cruisers, who vote for shady verandahs, lap pools and show lounges.

> 'Baby boomers are maturing nicely'

Already they are dredging the River Ems and knocking down bridges so that she can reach the sea. *Oriana* will sail up to Southampton on March 26 and be named, by a so far unnamed royal, on April 6.

With every aide that technology can produce, from air-conditioning to sound systems, *Oriana* moves into the top end of the cruising market in the UK. About 280,000 people will take cruises by the end of 1994, and forecasters expect 380,000 in 1995, partly aided by the entry of mass-market operator Airtours into the seagoing vacation business.

By the end of the century, it is confidently forecast that 700,000 a year will be taking cruise holidays.

David Dingle, marketing director of P&O Cruises, says: "There are about 1.5 million people in the marketplace for holidays at £1,000 plus, and cruising is taking a high percentage of that."

Oriana has been designed to cut smoothly across the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans at a speedy 24 knots on her world cruises. "You won't get badly bumped around on this ship," says Mr Dingle. "The omens are extremely good. Demographics are in our favour. Over the next five years in Britain there will be a million more 45-54 year olds than there are now — and that's the age at which people buy their first cruise. Baby boomers are maturing nicely, and so are their late-starting families. The scale of children's facilities on the *Oriana* reflects this trend — we have the largest children's play area ever on a cruise ship."

Oriana, carrying nearly 2,000 passengers, will operate out of Southampton, and she has been planned so that passengers can enjoy days at sea across the Bay of Biscay, not just port-hopping. As Mr Dingle says: "Sailing from Britain, there are a couple of days at the beginning and end of a cruise which have less available port-content."

Mr Dingle believes that the fast-growing Airtours operation, moving in at the lower end of the cruise market, is "mixed news" for P&O. He says: "They are putting cruising into the minds of far more people. They are telling your package buyers that a cruise is a viable alternative. But their product will be very different. Not the entertainment, or even the ship, but the other passengers. When you go on a cruise your fellow passengers are crucial."

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Mauritius provides a perfect blueprint for how the billions now being extracted from travellers worldwide should be used

Give the travel tax a good home



The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Up to 300 million people will be forced to pay taxes this year without having any say in how their *money will* be spent. Politicians around the world have discovered the fiscal equivalent of the Holy Grail — taxation without any of the inconveniences of *representation*. Not only have they found a simple and effective way of raising vast amounts of money, but they have been able to take it from foreigners to whom *they have no political* responsibility whatsoever.

The disenfranchised masses are air travellers who are routinely ordered to hand over cash before *they leave a particular country*. In almost every one of the rapidly growing number of states now employing this economically exciting but democratically deplorable *ploy, the money is* poured straight into the national treasury.

Finance ministers claim that to use the money for a particular purpose would be "hypothecation", which the arcane rules of public finance forbid. They can, therefore, do what they like with the money — estimated to be worth $250 billion worldwide. Britain alone will raise £350 million from the tax in a full year.

Despite strong opposition from the airline industry and growing public disquiet, international travel taxes are here to stay. All we can do is campaign for the billions raised not to be thrown into the black hole of government coffers. If countries used only a portion of the travel tax on projects which would directly benefit the traveller, the impact would be enormous. Some of the money raised could be used to improve the aviation infrastructure with new radars, better airports, improved road access and the latest communications technology. But much more importantly, we now have the ability and the technology to address the ravages of generations on the environment, before uncontrolled tourism destroys what is left.

First, we need a model to prove what can be achieved. The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius is perfectly placed to provide that blueprint. It has a far-sighted government which is prepared to intervene to manage growth, it is a self-contained environment with a finite area in which tourists can be accommodated, and it is one of the few places on earth where mankind as a whole could expiate the collective guilt of centuries.

Ever since the Dutch arrived on its virgin sands and forests in 1638, Mauritius has been the victim of human greed. The dodo was only one of 22 species of indigenous birds which were wiped out over the centuries. Some were victims of uncontrolled DDT spraying of crops and stagnant ponds in a well-intentioned — and in itself, successful — effort to rid the island of malaria. Others became extinct because their eggs were stolen by rats which swam ashore from ships, by pet monkeys which escaped into the forests, or by the mongooses brought in to control the rats which were also spreading the plague. Saplings were eaten by the deer, pigs and rabbits introduced as food by settlers hundreds of years ago.

The slow-growing ebony tree was cut down in millions to meet European demand for the hard black wood. Now the island is in danger of being overrun by guava, one of the fastest spreading fruit trees in the world, which was introduced from Brazil during the last century.

Today a handful of volunteers drawn from the vast pool of concerned and qualified young people around the world are struggling to reverse the trend, to save the few remaining echo parakeets, kestrels, pink pigeons, cuckoo shrikes and other wild creatures which once lived in perfect balance in Mauritius.

They are receiving moral support from the Mauritian government, which plans to create a national park in some of the island's hinterland. But the task is enormous and requires an overall strategy and the injection of large amounts of cash. If even 50 per cent of the 100 rupees demanded from each of the 400,000 foreign visitors as they leave the island were used on conservation measures, Mauritius could become not just the epitome of upmarket beach holiday resorts, but the role model for the future of tourism. It could show the world how to restore the natural balance and encourage foreign tourists to see more than simply their hotel swimming pool, restaurant and beach lounger.

Once one country has taken the lead others will surely follow, each putting forward a list of priorities for action which we, the global taxpayers, could then happily support with our cash.

Middle East woos tourists

The peace momentum is spurring initiatives from Egypt to the Lebanon. **Michael Binyon** *reports*

As the rapidly changing political situation opens up new freedom of travel in the Middle East, two countries that have seen a sharp drop in tourism have now launched huge campaigns in Britain to woo back visitors.

Recovering at last from almost two decades of civil war and chaos, Lebanon has just re-opened a new tourist centre in Piccadilly. And Egypt, which has seen a catastrophic drop in Western tourism as a result of much-publicised attacks on tourists by Islamic militants, has announced a 14-fold boost to its promotion budget for next year. Dr Mamdouh el-Beltagui, the minister of tourism, announced in London after attending the annual World Travel Market that his country is to spend $3.4 million in Britain to persuade tourists to return.

Britons have always been enthusiastic visitors to Egypt, and last year were the largest group from the West, with some 260,000 tourist arrivals. That figure, however, has been badly dented by fears over terrorism, with a 17 per cent slip in the numbers arriving in the first eight months of this year. Germany is now the largest supplier of Western tourists.

Boosted by the publicity of the successful United Nations population conference in Cairo, the Egyptian government has now gone on the offensive. Dr el-Beltagui pointed out that since 1992 some seven million tourists have visited Egypt — and only seven have been killed in terrorist attacks. A tourist is far safer in Cairo or Luxor, he points out, than in Miami, New York, Spain or dozens of third world destinations. Both he and President Mubarak, who visited London *earlier this week, insisted that* the fundamentalist threat has now been contained. "After a very successful crackdown from the police, it is clear that the government is taking the initiative," he said. "The intelligence services have infiltrated all these groups. Tourists are now very well protected."

> Border openings make a three-country package on the 'Red Sea Riviera' possible

Nevertheless, it is reckoned that Egypt has lost up to $2 billion in tourist earnings since the attacks began — even though these are virtually confined to Assiut, for long a notorious hothouse of anti-government activity, and upper Egypt.

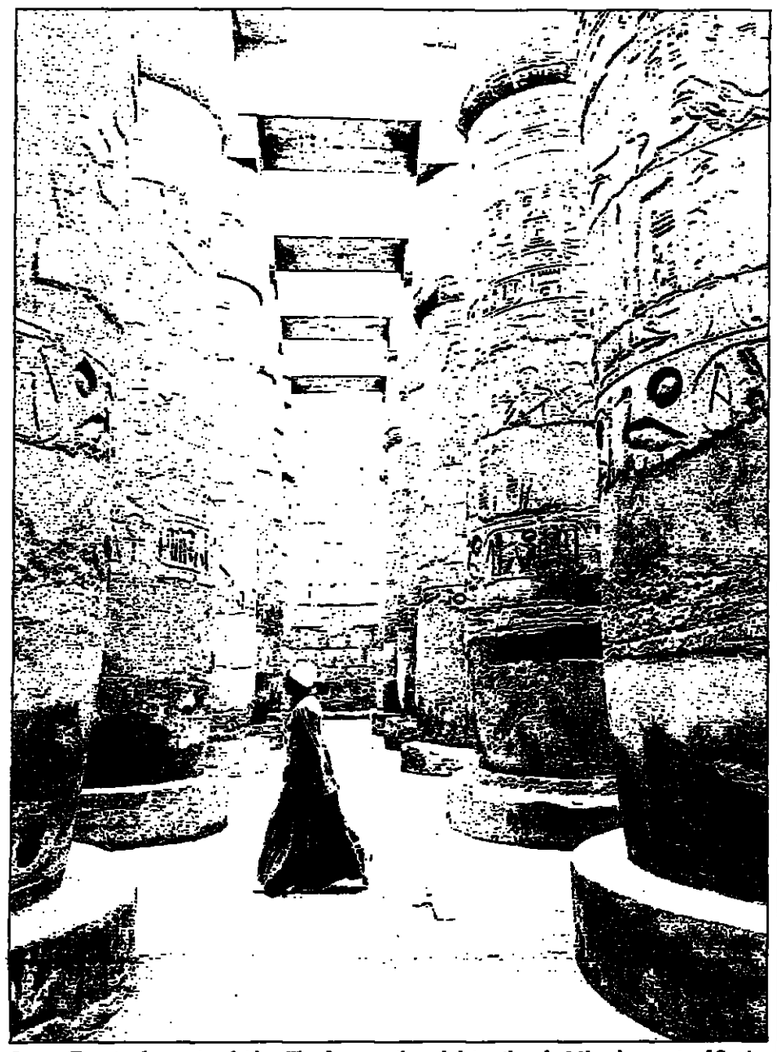
The downturn has not been altogether bad for Egypt. Much of the loss has been at the lower end of the market — the package tourists who tended to spend the least money — so Egypt has an unexpected opportunity to try to boost quality tourism.

One group has scarcely been affected at all by the downturn: Arab tourists, especially from the Gulf states. This sector accounts for 36 per cent of tourists, but their financial importance is far greater than their numbers. They bring and spend much *more money; they stay longer*, often for a whole month in the summer; and they spread their spending beyond the souvenir stalls and camel rides to luxury hotels, fashion and consumer industries. In numbers alone Saudis now make up the largest group, with 196,000 arriving between January and September this year.

Behind these figures lies another statistic that is of enormous importance for future trends: Israelis now make up the fourth largest group going to Egypt. And the number of Egyptians going to Israel has also increased dramatically: in 1993 5,000 went to Israel; by the end of this year the figure is expected to reach 20,000. For a poor *country where the total* number going abroad to any destination is small, that suggests a significant change as a result of the gathering momentum of the peace process.

Egypt is trying to take advantage of the peace momentum. The opening of the border between Israel and Jordan now makes a three-country package on the "Red Sea Riviera" possible, with tourists able to visit Aqaba, Eilat, Sinai and the famed rose-red city of Petra in Jordan on one tour.

Egypt is to build a new international airport at Ras el-Naqab to serve the Red Sea region, and together with Jordan and Israel is to begin joint marketing campaigns for all three countries in America, the Far East and South Africa. Tourist ministers for the three countries are to meet shortly in Cairo to discuss ways of simplifying border formalities, visas, and such things as hire-car arrangements for use in Egypt, Israel and Jordan.



Luxor, Egypt, where a tourist is still safer, says the minister, than in Miami or parts of Spain

Lebanon has no peace treaty with Israel yet, but the country is struggling to get its own tourist attractions back on the world map.

Nicolas Fattouche, the tourism minister, said in London that "solid steps" were now being taken to promote Lebanon: eight tourist offices will be re-opened in leading capitals by the end of next year. famous archaeological sites such as Baalbeck, Byblos, Tyre and Sidon will be promoted. Lebanon will host a meeting of the Arab tourist industry next May, and the private sector is being encouraged to include hotels, restaurants, beach and skiing facilities in the rebuilding that is going on in Beirut and all over the country.

Theme parks on a roll

After some bumpy rides, leisure parks had a mostly good year

FOR Britain's theme parks, 1994 was a rollercoaster year. After pouring millions of pounds into new rides and better facilities, most parks have reported an increase in visitor numbers, *Marianne Curphey writes.*

But the ride has not been smooth. Easter rains and changeable summer weather coupled with consumers keeping tight control of the family purse strings meant that at times takings fell 15 per cent below 1993 levels, before rallying.

At Chessington World of Adventure in Surrey, the marketing manager Lesley Morisetti, says that May and June were "our best months ever". The £5 million spent on new rides for this year, including the *Terrortomb* dark ride which opened in March, drew new visitors to the park.

Chessington's fortunes were helped by its "Summer Nights" campaign in July and August when the park opened until 9.30pm. Since the average visitor spends six and a half hours in the park, many people chose to arrive after the crowds, and stayed later.

Chessington theme park, owned by the Tussauds Group and opened in 1987 after an £18 million transformation of the old Chessington Zoo, is expecting visitor numbers to exceed last year's 1.5 million.

The English Tourist Board and 20 theme-park operators designated 1994 the "Year of the Rollercoaster", reflecting Blackpool Pleasure Beach's launch of the "tallest rollercoaster in the world" at a cost of £12 million in May, and Alton Towers's £10 million Nemesis, its impressive and frightening rollercoaster.

Jill Britton, marketing manager of Alton Towers in Staffordshire, also owned by Tussaud, believes only those parks which took a long-term view had a chance of success. She says: "The British tourist industry had a hard year and some attractions that were only in it to make money quickly did badly."

For Alton Towers, 1994 has been a record year. Attendance figures between March and November were up by more than 25 per cent on 1993 to 3.25 million. Revenue rose by 30 per cent. New for 1995 is a £2 million ride, *The Energizer*. A further £17 million will be invested in the park over the next two years. Planners will look in detail at the fast-growing weekend-break market and Alton Towers's potential as a two-day attraction.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach had a good season after its giant rollercoaster opened in May; visitor numbers rose by almost 25 per cent on last year's figure of 6.7 million. This year, for the first time, Pleasure Beach will open at weekends during the winter season until January 2.

For Thorpe Park in Surrey, a subsidiary of the concrete producer RMC and known for its private visits from Princess of Wales and her children, the summer season was a disappointment. A total of 1.2 million people visited this year, compared with 1.3 million last year.

Colin Dawson, the general manager, says the heavy rain at Easter — a time when parents traditionally take children on school holiday outings — marked a bad start to the year.

County tries write stuff

Gloucestershire hopes it has found a way to boost its tarnished image

Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds are countering a run of appalling publicity — including the Frederick West case, necrotising fasciitis (the "flesh-eating" virus) and rising rural crime — by promoting the region's most famous son, William Tyndale.

Tyndale, the martyred translator of the first printed Bible in English, is to be used to entice thousands of literary *enthusiasts* to the county. A new campaign is highlighting the villages and countryside of Tyndale's childhood. An estimated 11 million tourists visited Gloucestershire last year, contributing £250 million to the economy and providing work for 10 per cent of residents at a time when jobs in defence and farming have been cut. Celebrations for Tyndale's quincentenary will provide a foundation for the drive to boost the county.

Colin Potts, the county tourism officer, says: "Tyndale was responsible for phrases that are now an integral part of our language, but 500 years later he *is still* relatively unknown and neglected.

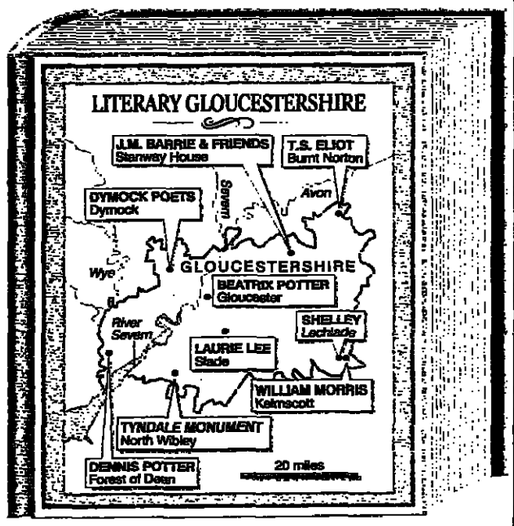
"Phrases such as 'Let there be light... fight the good fight... Am I my brother's keeper?... The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak... salt of the earth... signs of the times' and 'Eat, drink and be merry' capture the rhythms of common speech. Anyone exploring the countryside here, especially around North Nibley where he grew up, will be walking in the great man's footsteps."

When Tyndale translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into English, he did so with the intention that everyone, even the most humble ploughboy, would be able to read the word of God. A Gloucestershire priest, he fought the established church for years to get his translations accepted, but was eventually strangled and burnt for heresy at Vilvorde in Belgium in 1536.

England's Catholic church thought his actions subversive and ordered his books and pamphlets publicly burnt. A final irony was that the writers of the King James Authorised Version of the Bible in 1611 borrowed heavily from his work. Now Tyndale is receiving the attention he deserves. Professor David Daniell has just published a biography and the British Library is running exhibition, *William Tyndale and the Making of the English Bible.*

Tyndale is not the only literary figure to have close connections with the county. Laurie Lee is still associated with Slad village near Stroud and the area inspired Beatrix Potter's *The Tailor of Gloucester. Burnt Norton*, one of T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets, is named after a Gloucestershire house the poet visited. J. M. Barrie hired Stanway House every summer in the 1920s and threw house parties for the literati of the day, and at Dymock, a group of pre-First World War poets created their own rural idyll.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



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Court of Appeal

Failure to provide safe system of work

Walker v Northumberland County Council

Before Mr Justice Colman

[Judgment November 16]

A local authority that failed to relieve the pressure of work on an employee who had suffered one nervous breakdown due to work was in breach of its duty of care to provide a safe work place when he then suffered a second.

Mr Justice Colman so held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing a claim by the plaintiff, *Mr John Edward Walker, for* damages against Northumberland County Council for breach of its duty of care as *his employer in* failing to take reasonable steps to avoid exposing him to a health endangering workload.

The plaintiff had worked for the defendant as an area social services officer for 17 years, responsible for managing four teams of social service field workers in the Blyth Valley area of Northumberland, an area particularly productive of child care problems. In the 1980s the plaintiff came under increasingly intense pressure as a population increase in the area led to a *significant* rise in child care cases.

In spite of the plaintiff's frequent requests to his superiors for further staff and for management guidance neither was forthcoming. At the end of 1986 the plaintiff suffered a nervous breakdown and under medical advice remained off work until March 1987. He had no previous history of mental disorder and it was common ground that his illness was attributable to the impact on his personality of his work.

The plaintiff returned to work but advised his superior that the *pressure of his job had to be* relieved. His superior agreed that an assistant would be available for *as long as he was needed. The* assistant, however, was only able to visit the plaintiff intermittently due to his own workload *and* after a month was unable to assist at all. The plaintiff was attempting to deal with a substantial backlog of paperwork as well as an ever-increasing number of child care cases.

In 1987 he suffered a second nervous breakdown and was obliged to retire from his post. As a consequence he was incapable of *returning to his chosen career or of* taking on work which involved the shouldering of *significant* responsibilities. *In 1988 the plain*tiff was dismissed from his post on the ground of permanent ill-health.

It was, he submitted, the defendant's duty as the plaintiff's employer to provide a safe system of work and it was in breach of that duty in as much as the system of work was a threat to mental health which remained unremedied and caused the plaintiff's breakdown.

While the defendant conceded that it owed the plaintiff a general duty to exercise reasonable care to provide him with a reasonably safe working system and to protect him from risks which were reasonably foreseeable, it claimed there had been no breach of that duty.

Alternatively, it submitted, if the risk was reasonably foreseeable the defendant did not act unreasonably in failing to relieve the *pressure in all the circumstances* and in particular the budgetary constraints of the social services *department. The only* effective remedial measures would have involved increasing staff by *allocating additional funds and as* applying the defendant's limited resources involved policy-making decisions *as distinct from* operational decisions the defendant could not be said to have been in breach of any duty of care in having failed to take those decisions.

His Lordship accepted that the plaintiff's superior had been well aware by 1985 that the social worker staff in Blyth Valley were operating on a crisis-management basis, *that social services in* Northumberland were both understaffed and in urgent need of *restructuring to relieve the pres*sure of work in the area.

The plaintiff's superior had appreciated that the rapidly increasing demand for field services in Blyth Valley was making and would make the plaintiff's management responsibilities increasingly difficult to carry out and that the plaintiff had a growing sense of grievance that nothing was being done at county level to alleviate the position.

In those circumstances was it the defendant's duty to have taken steps to protect the plaintiff against the risk of psychiatric damage?

There had been little judicial authority on the extent to which employers owed employees a duty *not to* cause them psychiatric damage by the volume or character of work which they had to *perform.*

Whereas the case law on providing safe systems of work had *almost exclusively developed in* case involving physical injury, there was no logical reason why *psychiatric damage should be* excluded from the scope of an employer's duty to take care or *from the co-extensive implied term* in the contract of employment. Problems arose however as to *evidence of foreseeability and* causation especially in the professional environment.

His Lordship reviewed the case law on the standard of care required where a duty of care was found to exist. The practicability of remedial measures had clearly to take into account the resources and facilities at the disposal of the person or body owing the duty of care (see *British Railways Board v Herrington* ([1972] AC 877)) and the purpose of the activity which had given rise to the risk of injury (see *Watt v Hertfordshire County Council* ([1954] 1 WLR 835)).

The question was whether it ought to have been foreseen that the plaintiff was exposed to a risk *of mental illness materially higher* than that which would ordinarily affect a social services middle manager in his position with a really heavy workload.

His Lordship found that although the plaintiff's personality was normal he had been driven to the point of despair by the defendant's failure to provide him with sufficient resources to satisfy urgent needs for the people in his area and thereby alleviate the work pressure. He had been *trapped in a situation where* on the one hand he was unable to control the increasing volume of stressful *work and where on the other he* was unable to persuade superior management to increase staff or give management guidance as to work distribution or prioritisation.

While, in his Lordship's judgment, by 1985 there was no doubt that it had been reasonably foreseeable to the plaintiff's superior that there was some risk that the plaintiff might sustain a nervous breakdown, his Lordship was not persuaded that the superior appreciated that the plaintiff was at materially greater risk of stress-induced mental illness than an area manger with a busy area would normally have been.

On the evidence, therefore his Lordship considered that in respect of the first breakdown it was not reasonably foreseeable to the defendant that the workload to which the plaintiff was exposed gave rise to a material risk of mental illness.

In respect of the second breakdown, however, his Lordship was in no doubt that in the circumstances *the superior ought to have* foreseen that if the plaintiff were once again exposed to the same *workload there was a risk that* another breakdown would occur likely to end in a termination of his *social services career.*

He should have appreciated that the plaintiff was a man *distinctly more vunerable to* psychiatric damage than he had appeared to be in 1986.

The only course which would have had a reasonable probability of preventing another mental breakdown was the provision of continuous or substantial backup for the plaintiff.

His Lordship inferred from the evidence that the approach adopted by county hall had been that if the plaintiff were physically present there was no need for *anybody to be continuously avail*able to assist him and the department itself gave no lead in *encouraging prioritisation of work* because it was seen as a political hazard.

Was it in the circumstances reasonable for the defendant to take action to alleviate or remove the risk of mental breakdown? In deciding what was reasonable conduct regard was to be had for the acute staffing and financial problems which confronted the defendant at the relevant time and to the fact and extent of disruption which would have been caused to *other social work by assisting the* plaintiff's area.

In his Lordship's judgment, the dichotomy between a policy decision and an operational one, as argued by counsel for the defendant, had no more part to play in the context of the duty of care to an employee with whom a statutory body had an employment contract than it would have had in the context of any other contract made by such a body.

Whereas the mutual intention to be imputed to the parties to a contract of employment with a public body could be expected to qualify the employer's duty of safety by requiring the employer to do no more than take reasonable steps to procure the employee's safety at work, it was inconceivable that such mutual intention would require the employer to take only such steps for the employee's safety as political expediency from time to time permitted if the exercise of statutory powers were involved.

In deciding what was reasonable there could be no basis for treating a public body differently *in principle from any other* commercial employer although considerations such as budget and *inflexibility of decision-making* might not arise with a commercial employer.

His Lordship concluded that having regard to the reasonably foreseeable size of risk of repetition *of the plaintiff's illness and the* reasonably foreseeable gravity of the breakdown which could have resulted if nothing were done to assist him, the standard of care to be expected of a reasonable local authority required that in March 1987 such additional assistance should have been provided if not on a permanent basis at least a restructuring of the social services had been effected and the workload on the plaintiff thereby permanently reduced.

That additional assistance ought to have been provided notwithstanding that the defendant *could have expected a disruptive* effect on the provision of services to the public.

Solicitors: Brian Thompson & Partners, Newcastle upon Tyne; Berrymans for Crutes, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Disqualification of person as company director

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Gray and Another

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Hoffmann and Lord Justice Henry

[Judgment November 10]

The question whether, in the words of section 6(1) of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, *"his conduct as a director* ... makes him unfit to be concerned in the management of a *company" did not require a court* to be satisfied that a company director was at the time of the *hearing a person who, for the* future protection of the public, should not be allowed to concern *himself in the management of a* company and that for that purpose a court could look at any evidence *which showed that despite the* director's shortcomings in the past, he was unlikely to offend again.

Such a construction was not consistent with the court having a duty to disqualify a director whose conduct had shown *him to be unfit.* If the court always had to be satisfied at the hearing that the protection of the public required a period of disqualification, there would be no need to make disqualification mandatory.

Even if the court had a discretion, it would not, having formed the view that disqualification was necessary in the public interest, be acting judicially if it did not make a disqualification order.

The purpose of making disqualification mandatory was to ensure that everyone whose conduct had fallen below the appro*priate standard was disqualified* for at least two years, whether in the individual case the court *thought that was necessary or not.*

The Court of Appeal so held in upholding an appeal by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry from a refusal by Mrs Justice Arden, on August 5, 1993, to disqualify two company directors, Mr Walter Gifford Gray and Mr David Erskine Paterson, on the application of the secretary of state.

Section 6 of the 1986 Act pro*vides: "(1) The court shall make a* disqualification order against a person in any case where ... it is satisfied — *(a) that he is or has been* a director of a company which has at any time become insolvent (whether while he was a director or subsequently), and (b) that his conduct as a director of that company (either taken alone or taken together with *his conduct as* a director of any other company or companies) makes him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company. ...

"(4) Under this section the minimum period of disqualification is 2 years and the maximum period is 15 years."

Mr Roger Kaye, QC and Mr Malcolm Davis-White for the secretary of state; Mr Edward Bannister, QC and Mr Robin Hollington for the first respondent, Mr Walter Gifford Gray; the second respondent, Mr David Erskine Paterson, did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE HOFFMANN said that this was the first appeal to the Court of Appeal against a refusal to disqualify a company director.

The two respondents had both been directors of Grayan Building Services, a company which commenced trading on January 1, 1985 and went into creditors' voluntary liquidation on February 10, 1989.

The question for the judge was whether the condition in section 6(1)(b) was satisfied, that is, whether the conduct of the respondents as directors of Grayan made them unfit to be concerned in the management of a company.

The judge had made various findings of fact against the respondents including (a) the making of preferences under section 239 of the Insolvency Act 1986; (b) trading while insolvent in that the directors knew that the company was *unable to pay its debts as they fell* due; (c) failing to keep proper accounting records and; (d) failure *to file the 1987 accounts on time.*

The secretary of state said that on the judge's findings of fact she was wrong to hold that the respondents had not been shown to be unfit.

Counsel for the respondents had contended that whether the respondents were unfit was a value judgment which an appellate court should not disturb unless it was founded upon an error of principle or was plainly wrong.

His Lordship said that the *construction contended for by* counsel for the respondents was not consistent with the court *having a duty to disqualify a* director whose conduct had shown him to be unfit and that if the court always had to be satisfied at the hearing that the protection of the public required a period of disqualification, there would be no need to make disqualification mandatory.

Counsel for the secretary of state *made no attack on the judge's* findings of fact. It was the evaluation of those facts, the decision *as to whether they* amounted to conduct falling below the requisite standard, that he challenged.

There was the finding of fact that because other remedies existed for preferences and the *liquidator* pursued them, thereby bringing home to the defendants the consequences of a preference, the conduct in that regard did not show that the directors were now unfit.

Mr Kaye said that that reasoning was erroneous in principle. The statute required the court to have particular regard to the extent of the director's responsibility for the company giving a preference.

But the fact that a preference had been given inevitably meant that the company would have its remedy under the Insolvency Act and if a recovery seemed possible, the liquidator was likely to pursue it.

*To take those matters into ac*count by way of mitigation would deprive the specific reference to preferences *in* Schedule 1 of any effect in most of the worst cases, namely where the director has preferred *himself.*

In his Lordship's opinion there was force in that criticism. It also seemed that *the emphasis on* whether the directors were now unfit and the taking into account matters subsequent to the relevant conduct was, for the reasons he had earlier stated, wrong in principle.

Mr Kaye said that the judge dealt with each allegation separately and did not have regard to them cumulatively. His Lordship was not sure about that point; she did not mention their cumulative effect but it was hard to believe that *she did not take that into account.*

But he was certainly of the view that taking into account the pref*erences which the judge* disregarded for, he thought, an inadmissible reason, the conduct of the directors in the round fell below the appropriate standard. It was therefore her duty to make a disqualification order.

Lord Justice Henry and Lord *Justice Neill delivered concurring* judgments.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Field Seymour Parkes, Reading.

Reduction in relevant part of life sentence

Regina v Fox (Michael)

Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Alliott and Mr Justice Rix

[Judgment November 14]

Any reduction in the "relevant part" of a discretionary life sentence, *as set out in section 34(3) of* the Criminal Justice Act 1991, was not the period at the end of which the prisoner was to be released but was the term to be served before the Parole Board even considered the case.

Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, so stated when giving the judgment of the Court of Appeal when reducing from 12 to 10 years the relevant part of the sentence of Michael John Fox, aged 51, a retired assistant mental *nurse, who had been sentenced to* life imprisonment at the Central Criminal Court.

The appellant, who was said to be of low intelligence, had pleaded guilty on re-arraignment to five offences of kidnapping, attempted rape and three offences of rape, with nine other offences taken into consideration. It was said that he had been engaged in what was described as a campaign of rape. The judge specified under section 34 of the 1991 Act a relevant part of 12 years.

Mr Alexander Butterfield, QC, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr *Stewart Jones, QC, for the Crown.*

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the phrase "campaign of rape" had been taken from the guidelines case, *R v Billam* ([1986] 1 WLR 349, 351E), which was then taken as being the top end of the scale for rape. His Lordship referred also to *R v Henry (Errol)* ([1988] 10 Cr App R (S) 327) where a life sentence for a series of rapes had been reduced to 18 years.

The specified period of 12 years was based on two-thirds of 18 *years, which would have been the* proper sentence if the discretionary life sentence had not been *imposed. The appeal was* directed solely to the order under section 34 of the 1991 Act.

The court considered the circumstances including reports and concluded that the period imposed was somewhat too high. The starting point should have been not 18 but 15 years and, accordingly, the relevant period of 10 years should be substituted for 12 years. The life sentences remained.

His Lordship added that it should be clearly understood by members of the public that the 10 *years which their Lordships had* substituted was not meant to be a finite period at the end of which the *appellant would be released. It was* only the period before which he should not even be considered for release by the Parole Board.

When the matter came before the board it would have to consider at that time whether, by reason of what had been before the trial judge and what was revealed in reports during imprisonment, it had become possible to consider the appellant for release.

Solicitors: CPS, South West.

Refusing enhanced legal aid costs

Regina v Legal Aid Board, Ex parte R. M. Broudie & Co

Before Mr Justice Macpherson

[Judgment November 15]

A legal aid area committee was not required to give a solicitor notice if it was minded not to allow enhanced rates of costs nor to give him an opportunity to make representations on that issue.

Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny so stated in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judicial review by R. M. Broudie & Co, solicitors, of decisions of Legal Aid Area Committee (No 15) of November 17, 1993 and of January 11, 1993 (i) not *to allow enhanced rates at all on a* bill of costs already assessed for certain enhanced rates by the area *office and (ii) to refuse to certify a* point of principle.

Mr Andrew Nicol for the solicitors; Mr Gregory Chambers for the Legal Aid Board.

MR JUSTICE MACPHERSON said that the regulations and guidelines were explicit about an area committee's duty and approach when reviewing a determination on which a solicitor had a right to make written representations.

There were three possibilities: a committee could confirm, increase or decrease the amount of the award.

It was a misapprehension that their power to re-examine a point *de novo* was dependent on alerting *the solicitor that previously* uncontentious matters would be revised. It was not a case where no issues were in dispute. A committee was bound to look afresh at all items of costs considered and the regulations made that clear.

A solicitor should ensure that all he wished to say about the hearing was before the committee and he should realise that he took a risk when he submitted the whole of his bill and his file that there might be reductions.

It was the committee's duty to consider whether it should confirm, increase or decrease an award on the *material* before it. The committee was unfettered in its discretion when it looked afresh at the solicitor's application.

In his Lordship's judgment, it was a bleak prospect that, according to the Legal Aid guidelines, a solicitor's files did not have to be seen by the area office or the area committee, because in some cases they should. In the present case the affidavit evidence showed that the file had been looked at and the inference had to be that it was examined.

Once matters were resolved in favour of the area committee, there was no substance in the submission that the committee ought to have certified a point of principle that a solicitor should be alerted.

There had been no unfairness because everything the solicitor had wanted to be considered by the committee had been. There was no breach of natural justice in an alleged failure to alert the solicitor.

Solicitors: R. M. Broudie & Co, Liverpool; Mr Richard Green.

Discretion to erect road signs

Lavis v Kent County Council

Where it was a matter of discretion for a highway authority whether to erect road signs, a decision not to do so or a failure to consider doing so did not establish negligence unless the court was satisfied on a balance of probabilities that a *competent road engineer, exercis*ing reasonable care and skill, would have directed that the signs be placed on the road, and that absence of the signs caused or was a contributory cause of the plaintiff's accident.

Judge Previte, QC, sitting as a *judge of the Queen's Bench Di*vision, so held on November 8 when giving judgment for Kent County Council and holding that the plaintiff, Mr Martin Lavis, was wholly responsible for his accident and consequent injuries, in an action in negligence and/or breach of statutory duty.

The plaintiff claimed that the council ought to have erected road *signs and/or have put markings* on the road to warn road users of an approaching T-junction in addition to the transverse double broken white lines indicating the junction.

Justifying revocation of earlier court order

Crompton v Lancashire County Council

Before Mr Justice Douglas Brown

[Judgment October 25]

A decision of the Court of Appeal changing the law constituted "sufficient cause" *within the meaning* of Order 38, rule 6 of the Rules of the Supreme Court to justify the revocation of an earlier order under Order 38, rule 5 giving leave to produce video evidence at trial without prior disclosure, notwithstanding that three years had elapsed since the making of the original order.

Mr Justice Douglas Brown so held sitting in the Queen's Bench Division at Preston when giving judgment in open court after a *hearing in chambers and allowing* an appeal by the plaintiff, Lynn Alexandra Crompton, against the district judge's refusal to revoke the original order obtained by the defendant, Lancashire County Council.

Mr Philip A. Butler for the plaintiff; Mr Robert Warnock for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE DOUGLAS BROWN said that the plaintiff claimed damages for personal injury. Liability was admitted but the trial as to causation and damages had not yet taken place.

The defendant had obtained leave to produce the video film at trial without prior disclosure in reliance upon the leading authority of *McGuinness v Kellogg Co of Great Britain Ltd* ([1988] 1 WLR 913).

The plaintiff did not appeal the order until after the decision in *Khan v Armaguard Ltd (The Times* March 4, [1994] 1 WLR 1204) reversing *McGuinness* and changing the relevant practice.

That change in the law and practice constituted "sufficient cause" within the meaning of Order 38, rule 6 so that the court had a discretion to revoke the original order.

The trial had not taken place and the change in practice was fundamental to the conduct of the trial in a case where an allegation of malingering was made and where video evidence was relied upon by the defendant in support of that allegation.

Solicitors: Blackhurst Parker & Yates, Preston; Weightman Rutherfords, Liverpool.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

071-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
COMPLETELY CAVIAR LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the Members and Creditors on 17th November 1994.
M R DORRINGTON, FIPA, Liquidator.

NOTICE OF 998 MEETING OF CREDITORS
ARBY'S RESTAURANTS(UK) LIMITED
Principal Trading Address: 24 The Haymarket, London, SW1
Company Number: 2698586
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR on 30 November 1994 at 10.30am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
David Llewellyn Morgan of Touche Ross & Co, of PO Box 810, Cedric House, 8-9 East Harding Street, London EC4A 3AS will provide creditors free of charge with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require. Creditors requiring this information should contact in the first instance Mrs P Patel on 071 936 3000 extn 35091.
Dated: 18 November 1994
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
S.M Charnal-Pasha,

NOVA HOLDINGS (SALISBURY) P.L.C
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article 16 of the Articles Association of the Company that the Company intends to sell 300 Ordinary shares registered in the name of Sir Edward Henry Hulse Baronet whose last address known to the Company is 26 Upper Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, London W and who is believed to have died in or about the year 1897, no dividends having been cashed and no communication having been received from him or any person entitled to the shares by transmission or bankruptcy for upwards of 12 years, and if no communication is received from the said Sir Edward Henry Hulse or any person so entitled by transmission or bankruptcy to the said shares within a period of three months from the date of this advertisment such sale shall be effected without further notice.
Dated 14th November 1994.
Meares Pye-Smiths, 4 New Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2QJ Solicitors for the said Company

FORM NO. 600a.
Notice of Appointment of Liquidator
Voluntary winding up
Creditors
Pursuant to Section 109 of the Insolvency Act 1986
Company Number 2628281
Name of Company Delta Systems (Europe) Limited
Nature of Business Computer Hardware and Software Sales
Address of registered office New Garden House, 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JA
Type of Liquidation Creditors Voluntary.
Liquidator E D S Kirker, Pannell Kerr Forster, New Garden House, 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JA.
Office Holder No 8227
Date of appointment 10 November 1994
By whom appointed The Members and Creditors
Signature E. Kirker
Date 21 November 1994
Attested by Accountant.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION NO. 006487 of 1994.
IN THE MATTER OF RIGHTON LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice on 10th October 1994 for the confirmation of the reduction of capital of the above named Company from £7,800,100 to £2,663,100. AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Petition referred to above is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley on Wednesday 21st December 1994 at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the above named Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the reduction of share capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the Petition referred to above will be furnished to any such person requiring it by the solicitors for the above named Company on payment of the regulated charge.
DATED this 24th day of November 1994.
PINSENT & CO
3 DOLMORE CIRCUS
BIRMINGHAM
B4 6BH.
REF: PCR.
Solicitors for the above named Company.

In the Matter of Delta Systems (Europe) Limited
And In the Matter of the Insolvency Act and Rules 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, E D S Kirker of Pannell Kerr Forster, New Garden House, 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JA, give notice that on 10 November 1994 I was appointed Liquidator of Delta Systems (Europe) Limited by resolutions of members. My appointment as Liquidator was confirmed at a meeting of creditors held on 21 November 1994.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 30 December 1994 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts and claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors if any), to the undersigned E D S Kirker of New Garden House, 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JA, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time or place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Dated, 21 November 1994
E D S Kirker
Liquidator.

The Insolvency Act 1986
EAST LONDON STORAGE LIMITED
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Friern Barnet Town Hall, Friern Barnet Lane, London N11 on Tuesday 6th day of December 1994 at 12.00 noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the creditors of the Company will be available for inspection on the two business days prior to the above meeting, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm at Beckwith Blake Kaye, Second Floor, 315/317 Ballards Lane, London, N12 8LY.
Dated this 21st day of November 1994.
MARK VINER, Director.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH)
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at ASBAH House, 42 Park Road, Peterborough, PE1 2UQ, or obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to 2nd Floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool, L3 4DQ quoting reference JD/249536/CS/LIV41. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

PUBLIC NOTICES

INDIAN QUEENS POWER LIMITED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT A 160MW PEAK POWER FACILITY AT INDIAN QUEENS, CORNWALL

Notice is hereby given that Indian Queens Power Limited ("the company") has applied under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 ("the Act") for the consent of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to construct and operate a combustion turbine peak power station at Indian Queens, Cornwall, and for a direction under section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

The new station to be known as the Indian Queens Peak Power Facility would have a capacity of approximately 160 Megawatts (MW).

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statement discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for inspection during normal office hours at the following addresses:

Cornwall County Hall
Truro, Cornwall

Borough of Restormel
Borough Offices
Penwinnick Road
St Austell, Cornwall

In addition, copies of the Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary may be obtained free from Cornwall County Hall and Restormel Borough Offices while stocks last. Copies of the Environmental Statement and the Non-Technical Summary can be obtained free, while stocks last, by written request from Indian Queens Power Limited, Fifth Floor, 25 Bucklersbury, London EC4N 8DA.

Any objections should be made in writing to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, ENF Division, Room 2.3.15, 1 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE, stating the name of the station and the grounds of objection, not later than 29 December 1994.

24 November 1994.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

071-782 7344
OR
FAX: 071-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

THE TIMES Commuter Challenge

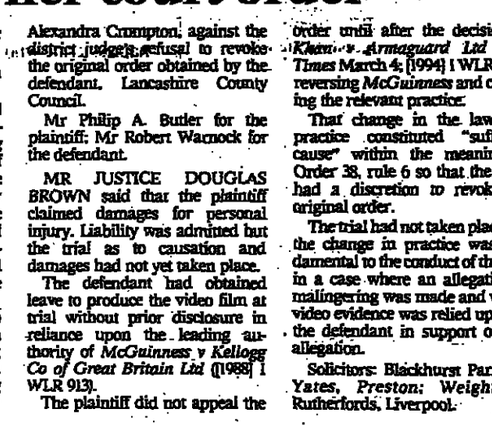
in association with Vauxhall Monterey

The Times Commuter Challenge offers you the chance to win a superb Vauxhall Monterey RS 3.2i V6 – a smooth, high-class luxury salon with rugged off-road capabilities, worth £22,000.

The Daily Game – every day for 17 days we are publishing three questions. Answer the three daily questions correctly and you could win a Philips rechargeable portable CD player or one of five runners-up prizes of Bamber Gascoigne's *Encyclopaedia of Britain*. By keeping a record of your answers, you can also enter our weekly and accumulator games.

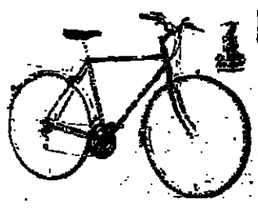
The Weekly Game – the daily questions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will give clues and will include a question on cycling. When you have answers for the three cycling questions phone the weekly prize line printed on Friday for a chance to win one of three Raleigh cycles a week.

The Accumulator Game – this is played by keeping a record of your answers to the daily questions (full details below). The star prize is the Vauxhall Monterey RS 3.2i V6. Runners-up prizes include one prize of £500 in cash to put towards your travel costs and three further prizes of £100 worth of Texaco's CleanSystem3 petrol.

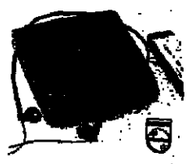


ACCUMULATOR PRIZES Vauxhall Monterey RS 3.2i V6 worth £22,000. Commute with imposing luxury in Vauxhall's latest addition to the leisure vehicle market. The Monterey RS 3.2i V6's three-door, off-road body styling is ideal for commuting – not only does it deliver the space to travel in comfort, it also has a very high driving position to give you a commanding view of the road ahead. One prize of £500 cash and three prizes of £100 worth of Texaco's new CleanSystem3 petrol will go to four runners-up.

Day Four Questions



10. In 1990 who beat David Hemery's 20-year-old UK record for the 400 metres hurdles? *(Accumulator Clue: The first letter of this answer belongs to word 10)*
11. What is the more familiar title used for a set of *Variations on an Original Theme?* *(Accumulator Clue: The first letter of this answer belongs to word 11)*
12. In which Victorian novel does a child die without calling his mother 'Mother'? *(Accumulator Clue: The first letter of this answer belongs to word 1)*



Phone 0891 66 55 98 and leave your answers to the questions above, followed by your name, address and daytime phone number. Winners will be selected at random after the lines close at midnight tonight. Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times.
The answer to these questions, and all those appearing in Commuter Challenge, can be found in the new updated edition of Bamber Gascoigne's Encyclopaedia of Britain (Macmillan, £29.95).

WEEKLY PRIZES *Raleigh Pioneer Jaguar cycles.*
DAILY PRIZES *Philips lightweight rechargeable CD player model AZ6823 and five encyclopaedias.*

THE ACCUMULATOR GAME

Phone in your answers to today's questions, and then take the first letter of each answer and play the accumulator game. Every day, as you answer the questions you will be gathering the first letter of each answer to fill in the accumulator grid (the grid appeared in Monday's paper and will be printed again on Saturday). We will tell you which word each letter belongs to in the grid but it is up to you to put all the letters in order to form each word at the end of the game. Having worked out all the words they will form another question. Once you know the answer to this question, phone in your answer and you could win a Vauxhall Monterey RS 3.2i V6 or a runners-up prize. In the accumulator game, where the answer to a question requires a name, the first letter of the surname applies.



THEATRE page 38
A flawed fable of early feminism is brought to Kilburn's Tricycle by a lively Jewish company

ARTS

MUSIC page 39
Valery Gergiev and the Kirov Opera make a flying visit to London with a Rimsky rarity



CINEMA: Focus on the directors, as Tim Burton plunders his past and (right) a Cannes winner explains himself

Ho-ho-horror for big kids

Geoff Brown on the puppets from hell in *The Nightmare Before Christmas*; plus the mixed stocking that is this week's releases

Next week, Richard Attenborough is set to twinkle as Santa Claus in *Miracle on 34th Street*. A week later, Arnold Schwarzenegger will get pregnant in *Junior*. Then comes a double threat: Macaulay Culkin twirling to Tchaikovsky in *George Balanchine's Nutcracker*, and Macaulay Culkin live and animated in a mixed-media fantasy, *The Pagemaster*. There might still be time to plot your escape, to the Bahamas, say, or the moon.

Britain's Christmas onslaught begins, however, with a nightmare, dreamt by Tim Burton, the director of *Edward Scissorhands*, *Batman* and *Beetlejuice*. No winsome bauble for him: he dreams of a skull in a dinner jacket, a rag doll whose stitching recalls the Frankenstein monster, and a malevolent blob called Oogie Boogie, all treading a landscape far closer to the world of Edward Gorey than Hallmark greeting cards. Santa Claus exists, but gets kidnapped. This is **The Nightmare Before Christmas**.

Burton's vision soars beyond the boundaries of live-action cinema. He began his career as a Disney animator in the early 1980s, when the story and characters of *Nightmare* were devised. The technique used is *stop-motion puppet animation*, which requires "character fabricators", "armature engineers" and the like to manipulate the tiny creatures as the film moves through the camera frame by frame. The actual director is Henry Selick, a stop-motion specialist, although Burton's thumbprint remains as devisor and co-producer.

Nightmare is a triumph of technical ingenuity and warped imagination. But, like the work of Starewicz and other puppet masters, this is a film to gaze at with cold admiration; neither *story nor characters* invite you inside. Where Disney's regular cartoons pummel your affections, *Nightmare*, made for Disney's offshoot Touchstone, is too busy being perverse and clever to give them even a nudge.

For all the bizarre ghouls Burton imagines, nothing in the nightmare is truly frightening. But it is teenagers and adults who will get the most from this brilliant if scarcely heart-warming affair: the most off-beat of Christmas offerings, and a useful taster for *Ed Wood*, Burton's film biography of the man acclaimed as the world's worst director, due for release here next year.

From the worst director to the best: *at least the Cannes jury thought so* when they awarded the directors' prize to the 41-year-old Nanni Moretti for his refreshing film **Dear Diary**. Moretti, though, is no show-off (*see interview right*): this latest work by an actor-writer-director highly regarded in Italy adopts a casual visual style entirely suited to diary jottings.

There are three sections. The first follows Moretti as his rides his scooter through Rome's least spectacular streets, eyeing houses and seeking the place where Pasolini was murdered. In the second he hops islands, searching for respite from tourists and television. In the finale the comedy grows darker: he relates how doctors led him a merry dance misdiagnosing a skin itch ultimately treated with chemotherapy.

Not every moment works. The second part falls prey to repetition and easy kicks at sitting targets. You expect more than you get from the ride to Pasolini's murder site. But Moretti presents these personal musings on his life and times (and possible death) with a disarming directness. So many art-house movies seem locked into their scripts or their directors' visual fancies: *Dear Diary* is a film of light and air that springs constant surprises, like the visit to a hapless critic who approved of *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer*. Even Moretti's health crisis is documented without anguish. *Dear Diary* notes life's imperfections, but still rejoices: an ideal tonic for filmgoers as winter gloom approaches.

Strawberry and Chocolate spreads further cheer with its story of an uptight, upright Havana student unbending under the influence of a flamboyant gay artist. Tomás Gutiérrez Alea is the veteran director, best-known abroad for two mordant social commentaries from the mid-1960s, *Death of a Bureaucrat* and *Memories of Underdevelopment*.

Strawberry bears a more commercial stamp than either of those, although its open support for homosexuality and sideswipes at the Castro regime still give the film a sharp edge. First signs are not too hopeful. Stereotypes loom large, and Jorge Perugorria's Diego specialises in camp preening. But, thanks to adroit playing and a humane director, the types soon become individual people, and the target widens to include other strands of Cuban society ignored or condemned by an ossified revolution. Alea, stricken with cancer, required help from Juan Carlos Tabío to complete the shooting. But there are few dark shadows in the end product, a warm, ebullient plea for tolerance, and a film worth anyone's time.

Connoisseurs of visual chic and existential games with love and death should hurry to **Days of Being Wild**, a Hong Kong wonder from Wong Kar-wei, one of the liveliest directors to emerge in the 1990s. The cast alone grabs the attention. Here is Leslie Cheung from *Farewell my Concubine*, an idle playboy in a dreamlike Hong Kong of 1960, draped in neon, rain and shadows. Here is Maggie Cheung, an even greater Hong Kong superstar, as one of the lovers he takes up and drops. No character finds emotional fulfilment; their drifting lives are consumed by ennui, hesitation and violence. Made in 1990, Wong's film has been called a masterpiece. It is not quite that, although his audacious visual style and feeling for disconnected lives still make the film special.

To round off a crowded week, a trio of misfires. Few directors see-saw so much as Bruce Beresford, and any admirer of *Driving Miss Daisy* will be hard put to champion **A Good Man in Africa**, a botched adaptation of William Boyd's comic novel about corruption among West Africa's British diplomats. Casting Sean Connery as the saintly local doctor does not help: as soon as he appears, barking "You are talking to me, sonny?", the film becomes unbalanced.

Sonny, a diplomatic drip played by Colin Friels, spends so much time buffeted by events that his late acquisition of a backbone is hard to credit. Beresford fills in the empty spaces with sex romps and jokes about genitalia: an unwise return to his earlier life as a director of Australian rudery.

Another star wreaks havoc in **Corrina, Corrina**, a "feelgood" movie about a black housekeeper in 1959 who brings life and love to a seven-year-old girl and her widowed father. Making her directing debut, former actress Jessie Nelson squeezes out some genuine feeling from the predictable material, although since the housekeeper is Whoopi Goldberg you keep seeing the star, not the character she is playing.

The film contains two conspicuous successes: a winning performance by Tina Majorino as the young girl numbed by grief, and a lovely collection of late 1950s furniture.

No plus factors at all in **Highlander III: The Sorcerer**, which even beats its predecessors in visual and dramatic incoherence. British video director Andy Morahan recklessly flings his images about: the script has the jitters too, sending Christopher Lambert's immortal hurtling across time round the globe. The villain is Mario van Peebles with a ring through his nostrils, the special effects are nothing much, and the cinema exit is on your right.

The Nightmare Before Christmas
Odeon West End, PG, 76 mins
Technically brilliant puppet fantasy

Dear Diary
Curzon West End, 15, 100 mins
Nanni Moretti's fresh, freewheeling film journal

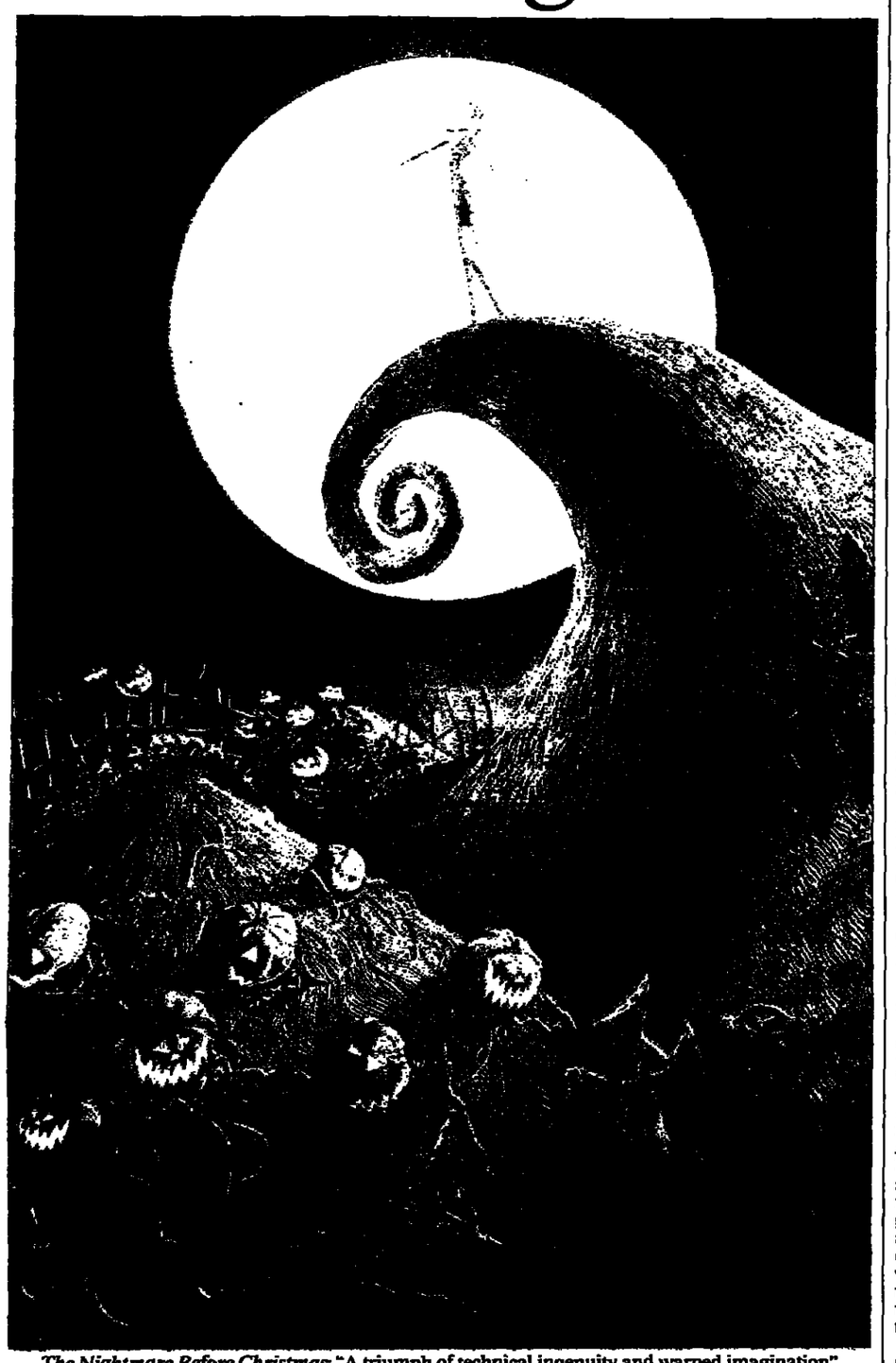
Strawberry and Chocolate
Curzon Mayfair, 18, 111 mins
Ebullient Cuban plea for tolerance

Days of Being Wild
ICA Cinema, 15, 94 mins
Stylistically audacious Hong Kong drama

A Good Man in Africa
Plaza, 15, 95 mins
Misjudged version of William Boyd's novel

Corrina, Corrina
MGM Haymarket
PG, 116 mins
Feelgood moxie with Whoopi Goldberg

Highlander III: The Sorcerer
Warner West End, 15, 98 mins
Dull, incoherent sequel



The Nightmare Before Christmas: "A triumph of technical ingenuity and warped imagination"

Self-obsessed without ego

In *Dear Diary*, Nanni Moretti takes his audience further down the roads of his life. **Anna Kythreotis** reports

Tell Nanni Moretti that his *Dear Diary* is the best film you have seen this year and he raises an eyebrow and asks whether you have seen any others. His office walls are hung not with posters promoting his own productions, but with those for films he admires. This lack of self-aggrandisement is all the more surprising given that, as the producer, director, writer and leading actor of his films, there is ample scope for ego.

At the top of the lofty piles of scripts around his desk is a puckered copy of *Dear Diary*, for which he received the Best Director award at the Cannes Film Festival this year, affirming the opinion of those who consider the 41-year-old Italian one of the most brilliant and original film-makers in the world. *Dear Diary* is his seventh feature film, and Cannes provided his third major award (he won a Gold Lion at Venice in 1981 and a Silver Bear at Berlin in 1986). But this is his first to be released in Britain. America, similarly dilatory in discovering Moretti, made up for lost time by staging a retrospective in New York last month.

> "The story is always carried out through myself and how I see the world"

There is a general misconception that Moretti's idiosyncratic style and the underlying political themes of his films would fail to engage a non-Italian audience. Moretti seems as baffled by this assessment as he does by the international success of *Dear Diary*. "My films have always been very personal," Moretti says. "They concern my milieu from a political, social and generational point of view, and the story is always carried out through myself and the way I see the world. But by talking about myself I have talked about other people and to other people."

He stresses that his films, sharply observed studies of contemporary Italian society, are not directly political — with the exception of *Palombella Rossa*, a typically offbeat examination of the Italian Communist Party through the reflections of a water-polo player with amnesia ("It was a metaphor for the crisis of the Left in Italy"). So he is surprised to learn that there are some in Italy who consider his work subversive.

"I've never nurtured the cult of being marginal, or believed in the poetry of being on the outside. I don't think it's true that in order to be in this industry you have to be cynical or standardised. As long as there is space within the industry for a cinema that is not stupid I want to work in it, but in my own way."

When he was 20 Moretti approached a number of directors he admired and offered to work for them as an unpaid assistant. Each one turned him down. So he sold his stamp collection, bought a Super 8 camera, and began making his own films. After three shorts, he shot his first feature in 1976. Booked for five days at the Filmstudio in Rome, it ran for five months.

Paradoxically, Moretti's career took off just as Italian cinema's fertile and influential postwar period came to an end. "In the past 20 years there has been a crisis in Italian cinema. I grew up listening to talk about this crisis, but while this was going on I was actually making movies."

When Italian film-makers were being urged to produce internationally viable films Moretti, with Angelo Barbagallo, created a production company to make Italian stories with Italian characters. "If you start thinking of an international audience then you end up by producing a hybrid, something that is not of one's own country but is not international either," he says. "The best way of representing an audience is not to think about its apparent tastes. I hope to bring the audience to my way of making films, not the opposite."

Lean, bearded and intense, Moretti appears every inch the archetypal political activist, but says he has no talent for politics or desire to emulate Zeffirelli. This is a pity. In the first part of *Dear Diary* Moretti says that, more than anything else, he likes to ride his Vespa around Rome in August, when all the roads are deserted. This, as victims of the eternal Rome traffic jams know, is improbable. But the way Moretti created a miraculously vehicle-free city suggests he would make an invaluable transport minister. "I shot a lot of film for that sequence," he says. 'A *lot* of film."



Director, producer, writer and star, Nanni Moretti has added Cannes laurels to his other credits in *Dear Diary*

Mop-Top flops set for shops

David Sinclair wonders who could possibly be interested in buying the imminent album of Beatles songs now long past their listen-by date

I have not heard the "new" Beatles album, *Live at the BBC*: 56 songs, recorded in 1963 for the BBC Light Programme, and now resuscitated from the archives. Nor am I particularly looking forward to doing so. They are not the first rock act to have their old radio sessions tarted up and put on commercial release — others before them include Jimi Hendrix and Queen — and although these ancient recordings are doubtless perfectly good of their kind, the idea that they will be of anything more than curiosity value strikes me as a triumph of hope over experience.

Of the songs performed on these radio programmes, 30 were never recorded by the Beatles in a proper studio for their record company. Why not? Presumably because the group, their management and the record company all agreed at the time that they were not good enough.

The other 26 were recorded properly elsewhere, so these will be rough, alternative versions, played on the hoof, and padded out with inconsequential bits of chat.

One of the numbers that has caused particular excitement is a version of "I'll Be On My Way", a "rare" Lennon and McCartney song (written by McCartney, actually) that the Beatles performed on a long-forgotten radio show called *Side By Side* on June 24, 1963. Indeed, so rare is this song that when its authors graciously "gave" it to fellow Liverpudlian Billy J Kramer, the only place he could find for it was on the B-side of his hit (also courtesy of Lennon and McCartney) "Do You Want To Know A Secret?"

Common sense dictates that there is usually a good reason why certain recordings can still lay claim to "previously unreleased" status a quarter of a century after an act as successful as the Beatles ceased to exist. Basically, there has always been much better material on offer. But hang on to something for long enough and even a cornflakes packet will acquire some kind of value as a collectors' item.

It is a measure of the enduring popularity of rock that so much time and energy is now routinely devoted to exploring its archives. Old film clips are exhumed each week on shows such as *Sounds of the Seventies* and *Top of the Pops II*; the re-running of episodes of *The Old Grey Whistle Test* has proved a popular feature of the new VH-1 music TV channel; a substantial chunk of the adult rock press is devoted to reviewing and cataloguing reissued albums; and tribute bands such as Bjorn Again and the Australian Doors are packing the crowds in at an unprecedented rate (the Bootleg Beatles played the Albert Hall earlier this month).

In some instances the craze for backtracking provides a welcome chance to reassess the contribution of an artist, a good example being the detailed and entertaining portrait of the late Steve Marriott (of the Small Faces and Humble Pie) in the current issue of *Mojo* magazine. But in the cases of Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan and Pink Floyd, the process of logging past activities and digging up old recorded "treasures" reached the point of diminishing returns a long time ago.

To the specialist fan, whose completist fervour knows no rational bounds, anything pertaining to his or her favourite act, no matter how trivial or embarrassingly substandard, is deemed a desirable acquisition. But, ironically, it is this very lack of discrimination that can eventually undermine the genuine achievements of the act. The torrent of dross that has been generated posthumously by the Elvis Presley industry has undoubtedly diminished perceptions of the man who was, arguably, the most significant popular musician of the century.

To a true Beatles fanatic, and there are a great many of them, a bundle of the group's offcuts may sound better than the magnum opuses of most other acts. But whatever the marketing men are saying, don't imagine the world is holding its breath to hear what the Beatles made of a Billy J Kramer B-side 31 years ago.

● Live at the BBC *is released by EMI on November 30*

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PRUDENTIAL

LONDON

RUTHERFORD AND SON: *Last chance to see Katie Mitchell's not-to-be-missed revival of Githa Sowerby's play.* Bob Peck gives a riveting performance as the implacable father of the firm and head of the family, a powerful portrayal of Victorian values
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; *mats today and Sat, 2.30pm* ⓢ

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI: Treasures of *the Pre-Raphaelite movement, many of which have never been seen in public, feature in a centenary exhibition of one of the outstanding poets of the Victorian period. Rossetti's life, work and circle are explored through portraits, including those by her brother Dante Gabriel and Lewis Carroll, original manuscripts and illustrated editions of her poetry*
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (071-306 0055). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, midday-6pm ⓢ

KHOVANSHCHINA: The distinguished American director Francesca Zambello *makes her company debut tonight with* English National Opera's production of Mussorgsky's "other" masterpiece. Performed in English for the first time within living memory, so light may be *shed on what is usually considered an impenetrable plot* — *life under the Tsar, without a Tsar on stage.* Sian Edwards conducts a fine cast, including Willard White as the feudal anti-reformist and *Kim Begley as the devious Prince*. Designs by Alison Chitty

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 3161). Tonight, 6.30pm ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Simon Rattle conducts the **CBSO** for a double-bill programme *tonight and Saturday. Tippett's Fantasia Concertante on a theme of Corelli* opens the performance this evening, followed by Szymanowski's Violin Concerto No 2 and Sibelius's Symphony No 5. Haydn's Symphony No 22 in E flat, "The Philosopher", is substituted for Tippett this weekend
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (021-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm; Sat, 7pm ⓢ

NEWCASTLE: Scottish Opera continues another excellent season with *its only performances "south of the border" for the rest of the year.* Music director Richard Armstrong conducts a new production of *Fidelio* tonight and *Stephen Clarke conducts a highly theatrical Madama Butterfly* tomorrow. The week closes with an electrifying *Maria Stuarda*, Donizetti's deliciously *unhistorical opera about two queens slugging it out for the attentions of an indecisive tenor*
Theatre Royal, Grey Street (091-232 2061). All performances, 7.15pm ⓢ

GUILDFORD: Final week for the touring production of Somerset Maugham's comedy of manners, **The Constant Wife**. Fiona Fullerton takes the title role, working her way to financial independence when her *husband (Nigel Davenport) does her wrong.*
Yvonne Arnaud, Millbrook (0483 60191). Today, 2.30 and 7.45pm; Fri, 8pm; Sat, 5pm and 8pm ⓢ

NOTTINGHAM: Last week, too, for Neil Bartlett's complex staging of Wilde's **The Picture of Dorian Gray**. Striking performances from Maria Aitken, *Benedict Bates, Bette Bourne* and Tim Pigott-Smith
Playhouse, Wellington Circus (0602 419419). Tonight-Sat, pm ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: A Bitter Truth: Avant-Garde Art and the Great War (071-638 4141) . . . **British Museum**: Pre-Raphaelite Drawings; *New European Applied Arts* Galleries (071-636 1555) . . . **Hayward**: The Romantic Spirit in German Art 1790-1990 (071-928 3144) . . . **National Gallery**: The Young Michelangelo (071-839 3321) . . . **Royal Academy**: *The Glory of Venice; The Painted Page* (071-439 7438) . . . **Serpentine**: Rebecca Horn (071-402 6075) . . . **Tate**: Whistler (071-887 8000) . . . **V & A**: Kalighat: *Indian Popular Painting 1800-1930;* Streetstyle (071-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

◪ **GRIMM TALES**: *Hansel and Gretel* and *Iron Hans*, woven together with other tales recorded by the Brothers Grimm. Carol Ann Duffy (adapter) and Tim Supple (director) return to the pre-Victorian version of the texts, and the grotesque costumes look terrific.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Now previewing, opens Dec 7 ⓢ

□ **HAMLET**: *Peter Hall directs* Stephen Dillane's darkly humorous, self-detesting Prince, backed by excellent playing from Michael Pennington, Donald Sinden and Alan Dobie
Gielgud, *Shaftesbury Avenue, W1* (071-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2pm ⓢ

□ **LANDSCAPE**: Pinter's production of his 1967 shortish play for two characters (Ian Holm and Penelope Wilton), interweaving the vital scenes of their memories
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Today, 12.45pm; Fri, 4pm and 5.45pm; Sat, 12.45pm ⓢ

□ **MOSCOW STATIONS**: Tom Courtenay's one-man performance as an alcoholic lost on the Moscow Underground. You probably won't see finer, more touching acting this year
Garrick, *Charing Cross Road, WC2* (071-494 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm

◪ **NEW ENGLAND**: *In Richard Nelson's latest, a family of English exiles are brought together by disaster and must assess the world passing them by.* Peter Gill directs
Pit, Barbican Centre EC2 (071-638 8891). Now previewing, 7.15pm; *mat Sat, 2pm. Opens Nov 29, 7pm* ⓢ

■ **OLIVER!**: Lavish Cameron *Mackintosh revival of the Bart musical.* Jonathan Pryce plays Fagin. Sam Mendes directs
Palladium, Argyll St, W1 (071-494 5020). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens Dec 8 ⓢ

□ **OUT OF THE BLUE**: A sung-through musical drama, composed by Shun Ichi-Tokura with libretto by Paul Sand. David Gilmore directs the love story set in Japan during the Second World War
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5309). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm ⓢ

◪ **A PASSIONATE WOMAN**: Ned Sherrin directs Stephanie Cole in Kay Mellor's entertaining, though lightweight comedy, who'd rather sit on the roof and dream than attend her *son's wedding*
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

◪ **THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE**: Patricia Hodge's crystal vowels perfectly suit the role of Muriel Spark's inspirational but dangerous schoolteacher and carry Alan Strachan's revival across the dodgier scenes
Strand, Strand, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm

■ **TRUE WEST**: Mark Rylance and Michael Rudko alternate the roles of the *two brothers, roaring cowboy and timid screenwriter, in Matthew Warchus's* mostly admirable revival of Sam Shepard's drama of the divided human personality
Donmar, Earlham St, WC2 (071-369 1732). *Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.* Until Dec 3

■ **THREE TALL WOMEN**: Maggie Smith, Frances de la Tour and Anastasia *Hille show how youthful high spirits* petrify into grim old age. Superb performances in Edward Albee's powerful drama
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Arcadia**: Haymarket (071-930 8800) □ **Beautiful Thing**: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . □ **Blood Brothers**: *Phoenix (071-867 1044)* . . . □ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . ◪ **Cats**: New London (071-405 0072) . . □ **Copacabana**: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . □ **Crazy for You**: *Prince Edward (071-734 8951)* □ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (071-494 5070) . . □ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Lyric (071-494 5045) . . ◪ **An Inspector Calls**: Aldwych (071-836 6404) . . □ **Lady Windermere's Fan**: Albery (071-867 1115) . . ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (071-434 0909) . . ◪ **Miss Saigon**: Theatre Royal (071-494 5400) . . □ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . □ **Neville's Island**: Apollo (071-494 5070) . . □ ***Once on This Island***: Island (Royalty), (071-494 5090) □ **Only the Lonely**: Piccadilly (071-369 1734) . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) □ ***She Loves Me***: Savoy (071-836 8888) . . ◪ **The Sisters Rosensweig**: Old Vic (071-928 7616) ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . ◪ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (071-344 0055) □ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

◆ **AIRHEADS** (15): Anarchic good-natured rock'n'roll comedy, with Steve Buscemi, Adam Sandler, Brendan *Fraser and Joe Mantegna. Director,* Michael Lehmann
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ⓢ (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (071-792 3332)

CLEAN, SHAVEN: Clever but gruelling exploration of schizophrenia from first-time director Lodge Kerrigan
ICA ⓢ (071-930 3647)

FINAL COMBINATION (18): Inept thriller about an LA psychopath, with Michael Madsen, Lisa Bonet and Gary Stretch. Director, Nigel Dick
MGM Panton Street *(071-930 0631)*

◆ **I LOVE TROUBLE** (PG): Romantic comedy thriller that fails to match its vintage Hollywood models. With Julia Roberts and Nick Nolte, director, Charles Shyer
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** *(0426 915574)* ***UCI Whiteleys*** ⓢ *(071-792 3332)*

MY FAIR LADY (U): Resplendent restored print of the 1964 musical, with Rex Harrison, Audrey Hepburn, very familiar tunes and Edwardian finery galore. Directed by George Cukor
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279)

SECOND BEST (12): Absorbing low-key tale of two damaged lives healing, *with William Hurt as the Welsh* postmaster eager to adopt a difficult boy. Director, Chris Menges
MGM Fulham Road ⓢ (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ⓢ (071-434 0031) **Warner** ⓢ *(071-437 4343)*

◆ **THE SHADOW** (12): Laboured adventures of the 1930s crimefighter with Alec Baldwin, John Lone and *Penelope Ann Miller.* Director, Russell Mulcahy

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

MGM Fulham Road ⓢ (071-370 2636) ***Plaza*** *(0800 888997)* **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (792 3332) **Warner** ⓢ (437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ ***THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT*** (15): Two drag queens and a transsexual get stuck in the Australian outback. Joyful and vulgar romp with Terence Stamp and Hugo Weaving; director, Stephan Elliott.
MGMs: Chelsea *(071-352 5096)* **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** ⓢ (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** *(0426 914098)* **Plaza** *(0800 888997)* **Warner** ⓢ (071-437 4343)

◆ **THE CLIENT** (15): Mediocre version of John Grisham's thriller about a boy in jeopardy, with Susan Sarandon, Tommy Lee Jones and Brad Renfro
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ⓢ (071-434 0031) **Screen/Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (071-792 3332) **Warner** ⓢ (071-437 4343)

FLESH AND BONE (15): Lugubrious tale of blighted Texan lives from *Fabulous Baker Boys director Steve Kloves. With Dennis Quaid, Meg Ryan and James Caan*
MGM Trocadero ⓢ (071-434 0031)

◆ **IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU** (PG): Bland comedy about a winning lottery ticket, *with Nicolas Cage, Bridget* Fonda and Rosie Perez

Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (071-792 3332) **Warner** ⓢ *(071-437 4343)*

THE LAST SEDUCTION (18): Enjoyably amoral tale of sex, power and $700,000, with Linda Fiorentino as the *femme fatale to end them all.* John Dahl directs
Metro (071-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly** (071-437 3561)

◆ ***THE LION KING*** (U): African lion cub almost loses his father's throne. Much hyped but charmless Disney cartoon, not meant for tiny tots.
MGM Trocadero ⓢ (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** *(0426 915353)* **Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (792 3332) **Warner** ⓢ (437 4343)

◆ **MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN** (15): Unwieldy, overdone, unenjoyable slog through the famous story. Kenneth Branagh directs and stars with Robert De Niro *and Helena Bonham Carter*
Barbican ⓢ (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Notting Hill Coronet** ⓢ (071-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426-915 683) **Marble Arch** *(0426 914501)* **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Phoenix** (081-883 2233) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (071-792 3332)

SLEEP WITH ME (18): LA friends party, play poker and suffer in love. Uneven first feature by Rory Kelly
MGMs: Haymarket (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666) **Warner** ⓢ *(071-437 4343)*

THREE COLOURS: RED (15): *Kieslowski's compelling film about criss-crossing lives, a majestic climax to his trilogy*
Chelsea (071-351 3742) **Gate** ⓢ (071-727 4043) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) ***Renoir*** *(071-837 8402)* **Screen/Hill** ⓢ (071-435 3366)

THEATRE: Brave but disappointing tall tale; how the West was muffled; Restoration with cracks



MARILYN KINGWILL

Debora Weston as Bruriah, the feisty feminist long before her time, and Nigel Whitmey as Rabbi Meir, her husband, in a scene from Besht Tellers' *Far Above Rubies*

Challenged by early feminist

Far Above Rubies
Tricycle, NW6

The person whose price is far above rubies is, of course, a virtuous woman. According to Proverbs, *she seeketh* wool and flax, worketh willingly with her hands, *bringeth* food from afar, maketh coverings of tapestry, looketh well to her household, and doth not eat the bread of idleness. What she does not do is go into the Grand Assembly in 2nd-century Palestine and tell the rabbis where to get off.

But that is what Bruriah, daughter of a rabbi burnt by the Romans for his faith, dared to do, and it is her that the Besht Tellers celebrate in *Far Above Rubies*. I first came across this fine Jewish company three years ago, when they brought *Telling Tales*, a series of moral anecdotes, to London. Their latest show, again directed by Rebecca Wolman, displays the same infectious love of legend, plus a new feminist consciousness. Despite some strong, charged *moments, it is not an altogether* successful mix.

Robbie Gringras wrote the script, which contains some flattish dialogue ("You have made even the Torah dirty to me") and is structurally cumbersome. The tale of Bruriah and her husband, Rabbi Meir, comes via a *10th*-century sage, with interpolations by two 5th-century scholars. That pays dividends at the end, where it is suggested that, thanks to *prejudices that continue to this* day, the truth about this remarkable woman and her not-unremarkable spouse remains elusive. It does not aid Debora Weston and her fellow actors as they seek to generate *momentum*.

We begin with Bruriah publicly challenging Meir on the Biblically correct way to punish brigands. Although his fellow-rabbis darkly hum and ha, Meir accepts the rebuke in good *spirit, since* he loves and respects her. It is only after the death of their infant twins that the marriage totters. He flings himself around in grief. She calmly accepts the divine will. She thinks him self-indulgent, he finds her cold. And off goes Meir to Babylon, for reasons *still disputed*.

According to one version, he went to rescue Bruriah's virgin sister from a brothel, and was proscribed by the Romans for his chutzpah. According to another, he vindictively tested his wife's virtue by forcing a handsome but dim acolyte on her. The Besht Tellers' view seems to be that she slept with the boy as an act of deliberate protest against male misuse. But, as they are open-minded and non-ideological enough to say, who finally knows?

The *staging is simple* and, though the occasional jokey Cockney and northern accents are an embarrassment, the company remains fresh and unaffected. It will again do better.

Indeed, *there are already* signs of that: for instance when Meir, hearing that an enemy has ordered his wife to spit seven times in his eye, *seeks out the poor*, confused woman and asks her if she would very kindly help his troubled sight by donating him some healing saliva. At moments like that, the Besht Tellers exude all their old joy *in a tall tale*.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Taming of a tomboy

Calamity Jane
Haymarket, Leicester

DORIS DAY spunkily immortalised Calamity Jane, the pistol-packing tomboy with a tender heart when she starred in the 1953 film musical. She made *the sparks fly in* Deadwood with Howard Keel as Wild Bill, seemingly otherwise-enamoured — *like* Calamity — but her bridegroom in the end. They are the saloon-bar Beatrice and Benedick of a singing and dancing Wild West.

Paul Kerryson's *revival of Calamity Jane* looks set to be a fair success at Leicester, traditionally a trail-blazing venue for hit musicals. For Act I's finale, the saloon girls in bordello bodices, like floozies with flying feet, do a nifty tap routine to jazzy blasts of brass *while Louise Gold's* Calamity hangs above like an unwilling cherub. She has been trussed up with a lassoo by Ricco Ross's black Wild Bill (sexy and funny, though no singer), for telling tall stories about scaring injuns, and for bringing back the Chicago *showgirl, Adelaid Adams, who has* turned out to be the star's stage-struck maid. Katie (splendid Liz Izen).

There is much other high-spirited fun in Deadwood. Bottles shatter in hands, blasted by imaginary bullets. A pigeon lands at Calamity's feet, lively as a dodo, when she takes a pot-shot at the sky. Her dirty log cabin transforms with tongue-in-cheek magic into domestic tweeness when Katie (soon to become her rival for Danny from the fort) moves in for protective female companionship. As Katie and Calamity — working up to wearing a frock for *the first time* — *sing* "A Woman's Touch" the ladies have only to point a broom and the grubby table is suddenly spotless.

However, Gold's Calamity isn't a clear winner. *She relaxes into convincing* swagger but also rushes many scenes. *In numbers like* "Windy City", she has grand flourishes, but often fades into inaudibility. Generally, the American accents are accomplished, but it is too often hard to catch what's being said. *The orchestra, even under* the stage, swamp speeding lyrics.

But though this production skimmed the emotional surface, its comedic cross-dressing brushes against *profounder*, *topical* issues of borderline sexuality. The folk harmonies of "The Black Hills of Dakota" *rise to* serene beauty, the cast processing with flickering lamps below silhouetted mountains, seen through a gauze traced with a map of the old Mid-West. Meanwhile, Calamity *galloping after a* cut-out train on a full-scale horse-on-wheels *is just joyously silly*.

KATE BASSETT

Dryden in fun mode

Sir Martin Mar-All
Lilian Baylis

IN THE summer of 1667 Pepys went to see this comedy three times in five days, and saw it five more times in the course of the next year. On a trip to Cambridge *he even stayed at a* particular inn because it was mentioned in the play.

But alas for contemporary fame: the play disappeared into the lumber-room of old drama during the 18th century, and this revival by the *Magnificent Theatre Company*, specialists in rummaging through old trunks, appears to be its first for 200 years. John Dryden wrote it, interrupting his string of heroic tragedies with *this comic creation of a hopelessly* muddle-pated knight, so puffed up with notions of *his own brilliance* that he upsets all of his valet's bright schemes to bring him to the altar with the lady he loves.

Sir Martin is the most original *character, though even in Restoration* London it must have taken some nerve to name a shameless hussy Mistress Christian — she is played here with sweet fake innocence by Melissa Palmer. *Warner*, the valet, contrives to bring the heiress Millicent (Karen Westwood) to a house conveniently placed for his master to call on her: Sir Martin promptly reveals this plan to his rival, refusing to listen to the frantic Warner's attempts to shut him up.

The same joke is repeated many times and invariably ends with an image of the blabbermouth knight crumpling inwardly in mortification. Andrew Normington's backbone *appears to desert its proper function at* these moments. He finds a good pitch for the endlessly revived outbursts of confidence and makes the fellow an amusing dolt, though really he is so *foolish, so proud of himself, that you* gradually lose any great wish to see him happily paired off at the end. Or mortified any further, for that matter.

Ben Crocker sets his production against Kit Line's simple facade of doors, and the characters skip in and *out in a spirited* manner, though the ladies overdo the sighs, gasps and sharp intakes of breath. The trouble with Dryden's plot, lifted from Molière, is that the supporting storylines *get left in corners when the focus* swings back to the latest ruse by Warner (an energetic Peter Lindford) to haul his master into wedlock. You can see why Pepys enjoyed it but also why it slipped out of sight.

Interestingly, the valet ends up *married to a lady of quality*, which isn't at all the usual reward for servants in Restoration comedy.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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MUSIC: A day-trip to London for the Kirov Opera; a Kurtág premiere in Vienna; and more Purcell at the South Bank

Grand opera on a wing and a prayer

John Allison meets the conductor Valery Gergiev, who brings the Kirov Opera to London — for one day only

The Kirov Opera from St Petersburg makes a flying visit to London next Monday. *Literally, that is.* Conductor, soloists, chorus and orchestra will be in town for less than 12 hours, just enough time to give the first live performance here in more than 60 years of Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh*.

The logistics behind this Barbican concert, promoted by the London-based Friends of the Kirov Opera, are staggering. Monday was to have been a free day in the Kirov's current Paris season, but now 170 members of the company will fly in to Stansted on a chartered plane, rehearse, perform *Kitezh* and fly out. The cash-strapped Russians will have saved on the cost of London accommodation, but anticipate getting back to their Paris hotel only at 4am. Orchestra and chorus have to be at the Théâtre du Champs-Elysées at noon for the dress rehearsal of Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina*, which opens on Tuesday evening.

But this is no cynical exercise in earning *baksi* ("bucks", a recent and inevitable addition to the Russian vocabulary), and *Kitezh* will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of London's musical year. Valery Gergiev, the Kirov Opera's dynamic chief, is motivated by two interconnected things: an urgent mission to preserve and promote Russian operatic culture, and a desire to maintain his company's home, the beautiful Maryinsky Theatre, as the *high temple of that tradition*.

Life in St Petersburg is one of increasing hardship, and now that state subsidy provides less than 20 per cent of the Kirov's needs, it is Western links — principally tours and an exclusive recording contract with Philips that is already yielding splendid results — that keep the company afloat. Sponsorship is beginning to appear from within Russia: *Kitezh* comes to London with support from Moscow Narodny Bank.

"We don't want to give people the idea that we're just sitting around begging, waiting to be helped," Gergiev says. "We need to make ourselves strong and support the lives of our ordinary members — the orchestra and chorus — and pensioned artists."

In a country like today's Russia, the Kirov depends on

> "The Kirov Opera doesn't have to be as chaotic as the rest of Russia"

Gergiev for its survival. "The Kirov doesn't *have* to be as chaotic as the rest of Russia, but it requires someone to be strong. It depends on my Western contacts. One night I may be conducting, the next day talking about co-productions. I have to do this if I want the Kirov to operate internationally."

Gergiev, who always puts artistic integrity first, is not easily manipulated by Western promoters. But that is not to say that greedier members *of the profession have not tried* to make easy money out of his company, capitalising on the fact that relatively small fees are attractive to Russians.

As a conductor — one who has an uncanny way of galvanising orchestral playing wherever he goes — Gergiev is in demand in the world's musical centres. He has spent two extended periods in the United States this year, conducting *Otello* at the Met and *The Fiery Angel* in San Francisco. But he regrets time spent away from St Petersburg. "I *can't do many* opera productions outside the Kirov: they're too time-consuming, and the Kirov is my home.

"But in every place I'm invited to conduct, I ask myself: 'Does it help the Kirov?'. If the answer is 'yes', then I go. A few months ago I was with the Chicago Symphony. I had a wonderful time, but also serious talks with the Lyric Opera of Chicago."

Although Monday's *Kitezh* will mark the first visit of the full Kirov Opera to London *since 1987 — when Yuri* Temirkanov was still artistic director — Gergiev feels a special pull towards Britain. "London is not the place where you think of making a lot of money, but British audiences are very progressive, always looking for new discoveries.

"Our first international partnership was with Britain, we have enjoyed co-operation with the BBC and the Royal Opera, and have visited the Edinburgh Festival." Another visit to Edinburgh is on the cards for next summer.

But for now the Royal Philharmonic Kirov-Maryinksy Series — orchestral and opera concerts, and recitals at the Wigmore Hall — *claims his attention. "The* series with the RPO is artistically important. St Petersburg *has an incredible cultural* richness and that's what we are trying to reflect, by playing music either composed or first performed in the city."

Many major non-Russian composers, Verdi and Wagner included, had links with the Maryinsky, and in January the Kirov's young prima donna, Galina Gorchakova, will sing Wagner at the Festival Hall. But most of the concerts will feature Russian music, and Gergiev plans to widen our experience of it.

"Works from even the mid-19th century are still 'new' to Westerners, but I believe that I wouldn't be a serious artistic director if I was looking only at the archives," he says. "There are very good Russian operas being written *now*. Some Russian composers are losing their identity and turning out pale copies of Western music, but there are others continuing the line from Shostakovich that he himself followed from Mussorgsky."

Unbroken operatic tradition makes the Kirov unique today *and provides the hard-pressed* company with inspiration. History will almost be repeating itself over the next few weeks in Paris, with performances of *Khovanshchina*, *Sadko*, *Kitezh* and *The Queen of Spades* echoing something of Diaghilev's famous Russian seasons before the First World War. Diaghilev's 1913 season at the Drury Lane Theatre was no less of a revelation for Londoners, and the idea of a Kirov *Kitezh* playing there in place of *Miss Saigon* is an appealing one. Funds must be *found for a London residency.*

But even in concert on Monday, *Kitezh* will disclose all its radiant beauty. Gergiev sees it as a summation of the very best of Rimsky, and is quietly proud to have restored a work once frowned on by the Soviet authorities for its mysticism to the Russian repertory.

But however much they may tour, Gergiev is always conscious that the Kirov Opera's real mission is to its audience at home. As he says: "We have to give people at least one reason for pride in St Petersburg."

● *Kirov Opera performs* The Legend of the Invisible City of *Kitezh at the Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891), on Monday at 7pm*



Gergiev: "In every place I'm invited to conduct, I ask myself: does it help the Kirov?"

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Comet heralds an important arrival

Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra/ Abbado
Konzerthaus, Vienna

THE biennial Wien Modern must be the only new-music festival with its own visiting comet. Claudio Abbado, who makes his regular passage to whisk off a programme of masterpieces. This time, with the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra, he got through Morton Feldman's *Coptic Light* at something like double speed: the sounds were beautiful — glowing whispers — but *their slow respiration became* an unrequited and therefore meaningless panting.

Webern's rare cantata *Das Augenlicht* was better, graced by accurate calm from the Arnold Schoenberg Choir, and Varèse's *Arcana* had all the right rude force. These young players had another chance to let rip, with marvellous precision, in the encore, the unrepentantly showy "*Maenad's Dance*" *from* Henze's opera *The Bassarids*.

The concert's chief interest, though, was in the chance to hear Gyorgy Kurtág's latest work, *Stele*, in advance of its official premiere, which Abbado will give in Berlin with the Philharmonic next month. This is the first orchestral composition Kurtág has completed since his Viola Concerto, 40 years ago.

Since then, especially during the past decade, his larger pieces have shown a disintegration *that made an orchestral* assembly seem unlikely: alien interlopers, such as ocarinas and mouth organs, have entered his instrumentation, and he has tended increasingly to scatter the gathering into small groups, often widely separated. *What is the Word*, which may be the most *dumbfoundingly powerful* piece of music yet written in the Nineties, is an example: it has its British premiere at the Barbican next month.

Stele is not, in terms of its fabric, part of this pattern. It is scored for a regular ensemble, regularly seated. In terms of its expressive drive, however, the piece is totally personal.

As the title of the work makes plain, its subject is *death: it is a mourning sym*phony in three short movements.

The opening is a bold major chord which then, through slow glissandos, weeps away from confidence: the rest of the first movement is made of frail lamenting gestures from different parts of the orchestra. The second movement starts with ferocious snarling, and the finale recalls the music for *the lake of tears in Bartók's Bluebeard's Castle*: through repetitions of a liquid musical *event, the work steps slowly* on while keeping its gaze, always and unremittingly, in one place.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Feast for a saint

EBS/Gardiner
Queen Elizabeth Hall

PURCELL'S *King Arthur* might have enjoyed its night of glory at the weekend, but Tuesday night's concert by the Monteverdi Choir and the English Baroque Soloists under John Eliot Gardiner rightly belonged to the patron saint of music, St Cecilia, whose feast day it was. Henry Purcell lauded her attributes *in two glorious Odes*, composed in 1683 and 1692 for the London Cecilian Festival, and *in an equally marvellous set*ting of the "Te Deum" and "Jubilate" in 1694, all of which represent the composer at his very best. The audience, which included Princess Alexandra, was utterly beguiled by what it heard.

Gardiner, like William Christie in French music of the same period, opts for maximised gestures, crisply executed rhythms, exaggerated slurs, extreme contrasts of dynamics and, where possible, an appropriate physical *separation. Nothing is* made too polite, too "English". We receive the full force of Purcell's inventiveness and can relish every twist of melody, every expressive or dramatic harmonic progression that he produces from his seemingly bottomless store.

From the beginning, when the two valveless trumpets of David Blackadder and Philip Bainbridge strutted with proud and flawless magnificence in the "Te Deum", it was clear that this concert was *going to be rather special.* Gardiner moved without pause straight into "Jubilate", with Paul Agnew's lithe singing of the opening words, "O be joyful". Here the choral sound was full, with the performers obviously enjoying the word painting which so delightfully colours this *music.*

There followed the earlier of the Odes, "Welcome to all the pleasures", whose delights included Michael Chance's eloquent singing of "Here the deities approve" above the long-flowing ground (repeated) bass, Agnew curling himself around "Beauty thou scene of love", and the voices of the sopranos Catherine Bott and Nancy Argenta intertwining joyously with Varcoe in "While joys celestial".

Such music is distinguished enough, but "Hail! bright Cecilia" stands as a masterpiece among masterpieces. With an eight-section overture before anybody opens a *mouth to sing, it states the* extent of its ambitions from the outset. Afterwards glori*ous number follows glorious* number, teasing us, thrilling us, moving us, reminding us how immense the power of music can be.

Chance, who took the lion's share of the solos, sometimes overdid the characterisation, cupping his ear, for instance, in the lovely countertenor and baritone duet "Hark each



Gardiner: nothing is made too polite

tree", which he sang with Peter Harvey. But physically acting the part is one effective way to heighten musical involvement, and involved he was. His voice was perhaps shown at its best in the *sumptuous duet he sang with* Agnew, "In vain the Am'rous flute", taken deliciously slowly and garnished by sweet-sounding recorders.

Harvey, meanwhile, confirmed his status as one of our finest young baritones with his beautifully modulated singing in "Wondorous Machine!", while Bott fluted charmingly in "Thou tun'st this world".

STEPHEN PETTITT

RADIO: **Peter Barnard** nominates the new *Gush* for comedy's hall of fame

Pastiche? Don't mind if I do

There are several million people listening to radio comedy shows each week who think they could do better than that. One of these people *is* me. And *I know there* are plenty more, because people write to me and say: "I could better than that."

Some of them — but not me — even try to prove it, with the encouragement of the BBC, which offers workshops in comedy writing and even asks people to drop in, or fax, script ideas for *Week Ending*, "the topical sketch show that tingles". It doesn't tingle me, in *fact I am amazed that* the show has managed to survive for the best part of a quarter of a century without containing anything but the most heavy-handed humour. I could do better than that.

The two problems about what you have read so far are that it fails to recognise that comedy *is subjective and that* comedy writing is perhaps the most difficult art in the entire pantheon of writing. The vast majority of attempts at humour fail because the writer tries too hard, a key weakness of *Week Ending*. In my opinion.

But now comes *Gush*, a new series for Tuesday nights on Radio 4 that takes on the most difficult technique in comedy writing, pastiche, and succeeds quite brilliantly. In my opinion.

Gush is by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman and it pastiches the television mini-series. This, as Hislop told me, is cheaper to do on the radio. The story concerns . . . the story need concern us not at all, because it is about everything and nothing. The point about *Gush* is that it has no point.

It does have marvellous performances by Martin Jar*vis as a slippery politician and* Mac McDonald as a slippery oil tycoon, which is to say, a slippery tycoon in the oil business. They speak the words absolutely deadpan, they resist colossal temptations to play for laughs and in so doing the laughs come free and frequent.

As with all good ideas, at the heart of *Gush* is a simple fact. A television mini-series on the American pattern has need of pace, *so there is no time to* explain who the characters are at the expense of plot development. So the characters tell each other who they are: "What is a *37-year-old* divorced computer wizard doing getting mixed up in drug running in Mexico?"

"You tell me, you're not just a lovely blonde, you're also a psychology graduate from UCLA." That kind of thing.

Gush milks this for all it is worth and throws in sound effects just in case we have missed a reference. Every time Cambridge University is mentioned, for example, there is a peal of bells.

The series gives the lie to those who are always hankering after radio's golden age of comedy. Asked for examples, such people cite Hancock and the Goons and, er, Hancock. *And then there were the* Goons. Well, now there is *Gush* and *The News Quiz* and *Huddlines* and these are every bit as witty as anything from 40 years ago.

These examples are very much sketch shows, rather than sitcoms of the kind the critics hanker after. This is very *much the modern trend* in comedy and more are coming, including a one-woman show featuring Doon Mackichan from *The Day Today* and a sketch show using young black writers to be called *The Airport*.

So there is no shortage of material, although listeners who complain cite quality rather than quantity, and rightly so. However, they *sometimes forget that the* Goons attracted plenty of listener criticism at the time.

Perhaps the real problem is that today's critics of radio comedy judge it solely by the standards of *Week Ending*. Ooops, there I go again.

Well-timed return

ARTS BRIEFING

WHAT clock keeps perfect time but is 275 years late? The answer is the one that goes on show today in the Old Royal Observatory in Greenwich for the first time in nearly three centuries: a regulator by Thomas Tompion, "the father of English clock-making".

The clock was revolutionary in its day, running for a year without needing to be rewound. For the last 100 years it has been in Holkham Hall, Norfolk. It has now been purchased by the National Maritime Museum and will be returned to its original setting: the Octagon Room built by Sir Christopher Wren specifically to house Tompion's clocks.

● NOT often do Londoners get to see stars of the New York City Ballet. So Covent Garden's announcement that *NYCB principal dancer Wen*dy Whelan is to make a rare guest appearance will come as welcome news. She will join the Royal Ballet for two performances of *Herman Schmerman*, which has been hastily added to the repertoire to replace the cancelled Michael Clark commission. Whelan, who is particularly noted for her performances in Forsythe's *Herman*, will dance on December 10, first at the matinee then in the evening. She will be partnered by fellow NYCB dancer Albert Evans.

Quick change

ANAMARIA Wills, whose appointment as the Arts Council's new touring director was announced only last week, has withdrawn from the post. The Arts Council says she has decided to continue with a Millennium project for which she is a consultant. The appointment had been hailed as one of the Arts Council's boldest. Wills was to have run a touring department with a budget of almost £7 million and clients that included the RSC, Opera North, WNO, Glyndebourne Productions and London City Ballet.

She was the general manager of Bradford Theatres from 1989 to 1993, but was sacked last year over a large deficit run up by the Bradford Alhambra. She later won damages for wrongful dismissal from an industrial tribunal.

MEET THE STARLIGHTS

LONDON
Apollo Victoria
Dec 8

IMAGINE sitting in a theatre that has been transformed into a roller-coaster of a race track, climbing high above the stalls to the dress circle and then back again to a hydraulically controlled bridge over the stage. This is the setting for Andrew Lloyd Webber's long-running hit *Starlight Express*, a cataclysm of special effects set to music: with all the action taking place on roller skates.

Possibly the most unusual musical ever staged, *Starlight Express* has been delighting audiences at the Apollo Victoria Theatre for ten years, and looks set to run — or roll — even longer. Theatre Club members can see the show and then meet the cast over a glass of wine for £23 (normal price of a seat alone is £27). Tel 071-930 3000 to book.

Membership of the Theatre Club costs £12.50 a year. To join, ring 0206 41662. For general inquiries, ring 071-387 9673

THE TIMES THE THEATRE CLUB

Rebecca Fraser on a magnificent group portrait of the Brontë family which demolishes many of the myths created by Mrs Gaskell

Justice for the Brontë men

The potent combination of the Brontës' extraordinary novels and tragic lives rarely fails to weave its enchantment over the imagination, as the critic and novelist Stevie Davies vividly analyses in her new study *Emily Brontë: Heretic*. For nearly 150 years the Brontës' home, Haworth Parsonage, has been a place of pilgrimage. So great are the pilgrims' expectations that they are frequently disappointed by what they find there.

Matthew Arnold's justly famous poem *Haworth Churchyard* was predicated on the Brontë family being buried in the open graveyard instead of beneath the church aisle. In a sentence which speaks for all who prefer legend to reality (including many Brontë biographers), Arnold wrote crossly to Mrs Gaskell: "I am almost sorry you told me about the place of their burial. It really seems to me to put the finishing touch to the strange cross-grained character of the fortunes of that ill-fated family that they should even be placed after death in the wrong, uncongenial spot."

Arnold and other sentimentalists would find much to annoy them in this brilliant new group biography of the family. As an academic historian and the distinguished former curator of the Brontë Parsonage Museum, Juliet Barker's confessed vocation is to put the record straight and sweep away the myths which persist in clinging to the Brontës, particularly Patrick and Branwell. She has already contributed substantially

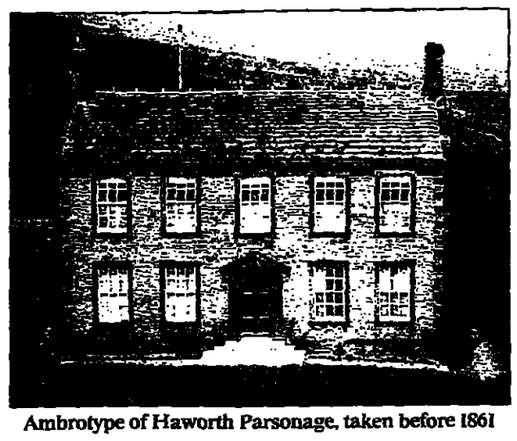
THE BRONTES
By Juliet Barker
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25

EMILY BRONTE
Heretic
By Stevie Davies
Women's Press, £8.99 pbk original

to Brontë scholarship through publication and by cataloguing the museum's vast collection; her latest work does not disappoint.

The Brontës is an outstanding achievement, a magnificent portrait which not only contains a wealth of important new material, but is also a delight to read. By publishing so many fascinating letters, hitherto unknown because they remain in private hands, by patient detective work among parish registers and local newspapers Barker has established what must now be the definitive Brontë chronology so convincingly that it is hard to imagine it ever being surpassed.

Barker's new material tugs the old into sharper focus, and the myriad significant connections she makes among the tightly knit society of West Yorkshire at last authoritatively flesh out the once elusive faces of the Brontës' circle. Among her finds is a new letter which proves that Charlotte was pregnant before she died, as well as the first extant letter from William Smith Williams whose sympathetic charm at last reveals why Charlotte was so fond of him. Particularly intriguing too is a letter of condolence on the deaths of Maria and Elizabeth from the superintendent of Cowan Bridge, Miss Evans, who was the model for Miss Temple in *Jane Eyre*.


Ambrotype of Haworth Parsonage, taken before 1861

But it is Juliet Barker's pioneering use of neglected parish records and local newspapers which really pays dividends. The harsh picture Mrs Gaskell's dramatic sense delighted in painting of Patrick Brontë, because it added colour to her biography and absolved Charlotte of any faults, has never really been questioned. Barker shows conclusively why it must now be abandoned.

It was part of the case against Patrick Brontë that he allowed the six-year-old Emily to travel alone to the borders of Westmorland to Cowan Bridge. Trawling through the Haworth registers, Barker finds that on the day Emily arrived at school Mr Brontë took neither the burial or baptism services as he had done every other day of the year: she convincingly posits that this was because Mr Brontë had accompanied Emily there himself.

From the dusty pages of the *Bradford Observer* and the *Halifax Guardian*, the figure of Patrick Brontë at last steps out as the heroic liberal campaigner he really was. So too do the many friends, whose indignation at Mrs Gaskell's grotesque portrait was such that they felt it necessary to write to the newspapers to compain at her treatment of him.

A humane Tory, Patrick Brontë frequently headed campaigns against the government. He led Haworth's famous protest against the Poor Law Amendment Act, which created the workhouses savaged in *Oliver Twist*; he favoured Roman Catholic emancipation; and he criticised the inhuman criminal code, as well as improving conditions in Haworth with the many local campaigns he began.

Close reading in the local archives lays many other *canards* to rest. The affectionate relationship which evolved between Mr Brontë and Mr Nicholls (Charlotte's husband), the truth of which Barker shows being obscured by Ellen Nussey and John Greenwood's malice, is eloquently testified to by a contemporary description of a distraught Mr Nicholls having to be physically supported at his father-in-law's funeral.

Branwell, too, is revealed as a far more interesting character, actively participating in the township's political life, an outstanding classical scholar and musician, whose decline into drunken madness took place ten years later than is generally supposed. Biographers have tended to assume that because the juvenilia is littered with references to drunkenness that Branwell was a drunkard already as a teenager. Making the telling point that these references were just as noticeable when Branwell was 12 years old, when there was no question of him being an alcoholic, Barker demonstrates that Branwell's much vaunted obsession with alcohol was for many years mere literary affectation.

There almost certainly was no disastrous episode at the Royal Academy in London, which is usually seen as marking the beginning of the downward path, and Branwell is shown to be actively and sensibly pursuing a promising literary career far earlier than his sisters. One must be thankful, though, that Branwell does not have all his sins washed as white as snow. Transcripts of Branwell's letters at Trinity College, Cambridge, made by Richard Monckton Milnes suggest that he did have an illegitimate child, as well as detailing the progress of his affair with his own Mrs Robinson. Taken in conjunction with the other evidence, they are fairly positive confirmation of rumours circulating since 1857.

Perhaps inevitably, in a necessarily iconoclastic work, the unvenerated come off better than the usual saints. A more unattractive side to literary genius is presented in Charlotte, who is shown as bullying and unappreciative of her sisters, and who may well have been responsible for destroying Emily's second novel. But Mrs Gaskell takes the palm. The extent of her unscrupulousness in dealing with Mr Brontë and Mr Nicholls, which Juliet Barker has uncovered, makes shocking reading.

Accompanied by the bonanza of notes worth a volume of their own, this beautifully produced book also contains exceptional illustrations. They include an ambrotype of the Parsonage before the Wade extension and the first portrait of Branwell's hard-faced "diabolical seductress". The whole is charmingly interleaved with reproductions of interesting memorabilia, such as the signatures of the Bell "brothers" (i.e. the Brontë sisters) and their exquisite line drawings.

Rebecca Fraser is the author of Charlotte Brontë *(Methuen). She is now working on a children's history of England.*

Rustic but no arcadia

In both his writing and work for television, Carlo Gébler has demonstrated an imaginative and subtle understanding of the complexities of Irish society. Where others attempt to focus on the big picture and succeed only in the reproduction of cliché, Gébler (as in his BBC2 series *Plain Tales from Northern Ireland*), often arrives at compassionate insight through approaching his subject matter from oblique angles. Now living in Enniskillen, a town which has become a symbol of both despair

David Park

THE CURE
By Carlo Gébler
Hamish Hamilton, £14.99

SALLY SOAMES


Carlo Gébler: his novel is a powerful exploration of a primitive, insular society, trapped in the cleft between superstition and science

and fragile hope, he has turned to 19th-century rural Ireland in his latest novel.

The Cure begins with memory and mystery. A son goes through the possessions of his recently deceased father and discovers an investigating policeman's account of a dark and disturbing episode in rural history. Fascinated by its horror and connected to it by his memories of a childhood visit to Ireland to talk to the policeman who recorded it, he pieces the story together in an attempt to purge his own demons and commemorate the innocent victim.

This is an unsettling and enigmatic tale based on a mixture of history and folklore. It tells how a hundred years ago in County Tipperary a young woman was believed by her husband and members of her community to be possessed by a fairy. It describes the terrible cure to which she was subjected.

Lest anyone should think they are about to enter the literary equivalent of a Donegal tweed shop, it must be said that this is definitely not a piece of Gaelic whimsy. It is a powerful exploration of a primitive and insular society, trapped in a cleft between superstition and science, burdened by poverty and harbouring both self-loathing and a repressed sexuality. Gébler beds the novel in the convincing and concrete reality of daily existence and writes in a clear and unassuming style, evoking an indifferent landscape and the lives which looked to it for sustenance.

As the novel moves towards its grotesque and brutal climax, we are reminded that "This was a tale of violence by Irish people, for Irish people, against Irish people." It is those most guilty of this violence who seek to absolve themselves and obliterate the past.

The Cure is a stark reminder that much of the modern violence in Ireland has been the intimate, the communal, a conflict built on what Seamus Heaney described as "neighbourly murder". And as in the coming months politicians sit round tables to seek a cure for the body politic, it poses the question whether some of those looking to bring healing are themselves carriers of the sickness.

Experiments of a new Frankenstein

Lucy Hughes-Hallett

GREY AREA
By Will Self
Bloomsbury, £9.99

In one of the cleverest of the stories in this collection, a publisher proposes the notion that, just as Los Angeleno waiters are all actors "resting", so the serving staff of London restaurants are all aspiring novelists. He tests his joke against reality, only to find, to his discomfiture, that they match. Waitress after waiter reveals that, yes, as it happens, they do scribble a bit in their spare time.

Each one gives a thumbnail synopsis of the work in progress: an account of Eric Gill's sex life from the point of view of his dog, written in 18th-century picaresque style; a futuristic allegory about a town ringed by health facilities. The descriptions of these imaginary books are extremely funny, and sound genuinely promising.

This is Will Self's signal talent, the capacity for coming up with arresting ideas. Nearly all of the stories published here spring from an offbeat notion for which a pitch might successfully be made by a succinctly spoken waiter while clearing away the plates. A woman whose relationship with her lover is breaking down becomes a kind of emotional Typhoid Mary, precipitating the falling-out or divorce of all the couples she knows. A lonely, snobbish bachelor with voyeuristic tendencies deludes himself he is one of a handful of people who control all the other citizens of London as though they were so many blips on the computer screen.

In the title story time stands still, but in a world that is anyway so devoid of meaningful events that the infinite extension of pre-menstrual tension is the only discernible difference between the previous condition and the new stasis.

Self develops all these ideas with considerable narrative and verbal inventiveness. There are fantastic events — absurd or horrific — which conform elegantly with the patterns he is making. There is acrobatic word play. But the stories never achieve a life independent of their seed-ideas. The characters remain character sketches. The emotions are null. This chilliness may be willed. It is certainly not the result of any lack of fluency or intelligence. But it makes Self's fiction curiously unengaging.

In the most substantial piece in the collection, "Scale", the narrator lives next to a model village, surrounded by the pygmy furniture that used to be his children's. He is writing a treatise on the M40, elaborating a theory of motorway signs as the songlines of the machine age. The story is ingenious, but it is typical of the way Self undercuts, not only sentiment, but his own intellectual ambition as well, that at its centre is a pun not on scales of measurement or music, but on the other kind of scale, the sort that builds up inside kettles.


Will Self: ingenious but chilly

Speeches to conceal thoughts

Claire Messud

THE VILLAGE
By David Mamet
Faber, £14.99

Ours is an era in which writing a publishable novel is considered an undertaking not unlike learning to drive: something even a supermodel or a tennis champion can do. Quite why the American playwright David Mamet (whose stage triumphs include *Oleanna*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *Speed-the-Plow*) felt obliged to divert his talents is unclear. In his case, it seems an otiose gesture, particularly as the result, *The Village*, is so half-hearted a novel.

Portraying a series of characters in a New England village over the course of a year, the book, which has no narrative *per se*, is a jumble of brief, frequently oblique scenes. There are three discrete elements: stretches of Mamet's trademark dialogue (stiffly emphatic, repetitive exchanges, skidding along the surface with the promise of resonance); staccato prose passages that function as stage directions; and bouts of "interior monologue".

It was presumably the itch to get under his characters' skins that prompted Mamet to abandon, however briefly, the stage. Curiously enough, what he finds (or rather, places) there is but more of that artificial repartee familiar from his dialogue, albeit on a broader range of subjects. For example, Henry, one of the book's more prominent characters, reflects as he tracks a deer in the woods: "There's no one here but me. My wife is not here. Nothing in my life is here except me. In the woods. A Man in the woods. And if I'm strong enough to navigate in this snow, then I am. And there's no further analysis you need." Useful to get that learnt.

Elsewhere, as a young woman watches her lover in the bathroom mirror, Mamet has her musing thus: "'If it [the mirror image] was reversed you could watch for any *humor* that might arise from it,' she thought; 'whatever *that* might be.' She repeated the last thought to herself: 'Whatever that might be.'"

That repetition is a symptom of Mamet's insistence on artifice. When used in verbal dialogue, it is a stylised exaggeration that proves a point about human communication. When dropped into a stilted interior monologue in a novel, it is simply a lie: people don't think like this.

The relief of human thought, as opposed to speech, is precisely that while it is constrained and circumscribed by language, it is not fettered by the sentence. Thoughts are not speeches, which is why it is often so difficult to articulate them. This is a fact which novelists from Flaubert to Proust to Woolf and onwards have been at considerable pains to convey, but which seems to elude Mamet. The legacy of the theatre — a need to enact the limitations of human interaction — has caused him to set irksome boundaries on human thought.


Mamet: a need to enact the limitations of human interaction

Individual scenes of dialogue are, predictably, impressively handled: and on one occasion, when Henry gets lost in the woods at dark and panics, Mamet delivers a moment of true narrative drama. But it is the exception: generally, the fragments which make up the novel neither convey individual characters of any depth, nor do they provide the slightest, longed-for, twinge of compulsion. Perhaps a company of actors could bring life to *The Village*: and perhaps Mamet should stick to writing plays.

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H.G. Wells saw history as a race "between education and catastrophe". Three Irish first novels suggest they might also run as a team. **Walk in a Lost Landscape** *(Poolbeg, £6.99 pbk original)* makes no attempt to explain its characters through the prism of history. Sheila Barrett looks back only as far as the near future, to a period before World War Three when the clock is finally stopped by nuclear holocaust. In the story of a family's struggle to survive, she retraces familiar roads and countryside, exposing local strengths and weaknesses first chronicled in the ancient stories of Ireland.

Maura O'Keefe is 13 years old when the bombs go off. The tense week before war is declared is the best section of the book, with cameos of home life and school making their own quiet statements of just what will be lost. Maura's mother is the siren of disaster. Through snatches of argument between her parents, the child and the reader grasp the full horror of the power games between small nations, and the empty sanctuary of Irish neutrality in a world where almost everyone has the bomb.

Barrett never labours the point. Her writing is light and dashing, with such a film-maker's eye for detail that after reading the girl's farewell to her teacher, and a scene in a Connemara petrol station, I found it impossible to sleep and turned on the light for more. What follows is never quite so gripping, perhaps because Barrett is trying to examine the long-term effects of radiation and the patchy influences of anarchy and reason.

That world of medieval communities beset by marauders and fascist enslavers is already familiar from works like *Riddley Walker*.

Triptych of blood sacrifice

But whereas they looked squarely at the vulnerability of women in an irradiated madland, this author becomes too protective of her virgin heroine, eventually allowing her to grow into happiness and liberation with a childhood sweetheart. Such avoidance of sexual unpleasantness is recognisably Irish, but it is a story which is horribly believable for all that.

A LOT OF human history and a worrying lack of sexuality are noticeable in **One Man's Place** *(Poolbeg, £6.99 pbk original)*. John F. Deane examines the heady mix of heroic verse, religious rhetoric and tales of impossible bravery which educate an innocent boy into political animal. Dying, an old man reflects on his life: a boyhood stand beside his father against the Black and Tans; the divisiveness of Civil War within school and neighbourhood; and the unfinished business of the border which returns to haunt him as Christian Brother and married man.

This is history conflated, the southern Irish story simplified and reinterpreted with the hindsight of Ulster's recent troubles. Yet anyone trying to understand the inspiration behind Irish political violence would do well to read this novel. The need for a continuous blood sacrifice is established early in the child's mind, with quotes from Padraig Pearse, high-flown pieces in *Our Boys* magazine and in the oratory of his teachers, one of whom eventually persuades his charges to do without their midday meal while Terence MacSwiney starves himself to death.

Strong stuff. Unfortunately, reading between such lines is equally demanding. A tougher editor might have culled a number of over-descriptive passages, plus some repetitions. But where pruned like his poetry, Deane's prose is strong enough to hurt.

SEAN Rooney's **Early Many a Morning** *(Brandon, £6.95 pbk original)* is more likely to infuriate any reader who knows the first thing about Northern Ireland and confuse the rest. Through a male-bonded world of Belfast back streets and bars, Rooney's young hero offers only excuses for IRA violence and a nice show of reluctance. He cannot really explain his motivation because he has rewritten the facts: claiming the first Civil Rights marches for Sinn Fein; ignoring the mutual hatred of the two communities; pretending the fight is only with British soldiers; and depicting "the South" as a holiday camp for terrorists.

Watching him do his bit to restore some golden age of Catholic working-class solidarity, we are asked to accept that he has no choice but to lay bombs, kneecap deviants and execute informers; the bloody lessons of history must be repeated until death. A postscript finds him in London, instructing a new generation of bombers and claiming portentously: "The young man thinks he is history's master. I am its slave." Quite.

AISLING FOSTER

Twilight of the German spirit

The recent "zany" production of half Wagner's *Ring* at Covent Garden caused uproar. It also provoked the wise and witty Liverpool musician (there are some such) Fritz Spiegl to write a letter to a Sunday newspaper published under the apt headline, "*Springtime for Wagner*".

Spiegl recalled a like performance of *Tannhäuser* at the Kroll Opera, Berlin, by Otto Klemperer, the great Jewish conductor, just after Hitler seized power in 1933. The Venusberg was apparently depicted as an empty beer cellar, Venus herself as a lolling tart from the red-light district of Oranienberg; the pilgrims were ragged proletarians and the huntsmen a football team in peaked caps.

Spiegl presumed that this was Klemperer's parting shot at Wagner and German *Kultur* before being expelled, which he very soon was. Spiegl would like to have seen it. He appealed to readers for more light. I turned at once to Erik Levi's formidable *Music in the Third Reich*, on my desk for review. I found it as I'd expected, informative though restrained. It prefers the Berlin State Opera as the venue, not the Kroll.

It dryly characterises the performance as "controversial" and particularly offensive to "Nazi sensibilities". What, to those sensibilities alone? Were no ordinary music lovers outraged? No non-Nazis or anti-Nazis? Were no Jews affronted or disturbed? I bet some were.

Levi goes on to quote a pro-Nazi critic, Fritz Stege, damning the performance as a "bastardisation" of Wagner and an insult to the composer's memory: "Those responsible should be dismissed forthwith." (To his credit, Stege did later speak up for the dead, defamed and banned Mendelssohn.)

Perhaps some such illiberal sentiments momentarily arose in the gorges of those not normally pro-Nazi. If so, a grim situation indeed, in which offences against taste and tradition could only be to the advantage of the exultant Nazis, profoundly hostile as they were to both taste and tradition. How the Nazis must have prayed to their Nordic gods — "Oh that mine enemy should controversially produce a well-loved opera!".

Colin Welch

MUSIC IN THE THIRD REICH
By Erik Levi
Macmillan, £40

Spiegl incidentally notes that the younger Klemperer of the *Tannhäuser* antics was not the revered Klemperer we later knew in London — a solemn, devoutly Bruckneresque figure, profoundly respectful of *Kultur*. Klemperer was surely not the only Weimar *enfant terrible* to repent of his youthful zeal *épater les bourgeois*.

Some crusty old fogies may be tempted by the *Tannhäuser* episode, *in petto* or in jest, to momentary sympathy with the Nazis: had a point there, got to draw the line somewhere, only language these intellectuals understand, etc.

Those thus tempted should read, mark and inwardly digest Erik Levi's book. I called it above informative and restrained — true, but faint praise, for which I apologise. Let me be a bit more forthcoming. It is thorough, accurate, balanced, judicious, objective, above all fair.

Humour is scarce, and mostly of the gallows sort. A resourceful Jewish composer operated under 30 pseudonyms: he composed in World War One a Hindenburg march, in the 20s a Bolshevik dance, and after 1933 Nazi choruses. Ludicrous, too, were Nazi efforts to substitute an Aryan *Midsummer Night's Dream* music for Mendelssohn's masterpiece — it flopped. The composer had a non-Aryan wife anyway.

Austere indeed are Levi's methods and purposes, which are concerned first and foremost with policy and its application. Compositions written during the Third Reich are only discussed "in passing". Little attention is given to biographical details of such "equivocal" figures as Richard Strauss, Furtwängler, Hindemith and Karajan.

Whatever book is here foreshadowed, it is not exactly frivolous or sensational — more like an opera without music, or an account of a spectacular orgy based on nothing more than the caterers' bills. An impressionistic journalist like Jonathan Meades, writing on Nazi architecture in *The Times Magazine* of October 24, dashes in a few quick brush strokes and the Nazis appear before us in all their sinister barminess. Levi is more careful, painstaking and prosaic — duller, if you like. You have to listen carefully to hear the whips and wailings.

Yes, but little as Levi may say about those "equivocal" figures, it is fair. He mentions Richard Strauss's public-spirited reasons for his notorious presidency of the *Reichsmusikkammer* — he was soon removed — and credits Furtwängler with considerable, if intermittent, courage in the service of music. Levi also speaks respectfully of the composer Hans Pfitzner, despite his nationalistic aberrations.

Dryly objective, Levi rarely permits himself a musical opinion. Readers, he admits, may be disappointed. I for one was a bit disappointed — the more so as Levi is billed on the dustjacket as a versatile musician, teacher, journalist and professional accompanist. More comment from him would have been most welcome.

What Levi does make appallingly clear in his own laborious way is how and why the Nazis were totally unfit to guard German traditional *Kultur*, as also everything else German. A great tradition of art or thought is not served or preserved by silencing or expelling or incarcerating or worse, on racist or other grounds, many of those who in their own way work within it, who teach it and pass it on, who desire nothing more than to maintain, preserve, develop and enrich it. It is further endangered by being misappropriated, abused and exploited, for temporal political ends, so that the eternal and invaluable is dragged down and wrecked, together with the base and ephemeral.

Obviously that tradition is not helped by the squandering of its treasure in wars unwinnable, or horrible if won, or by exposing the beautiful cities and precious institutions which nourished it to the risk or certainty of destruction. Another perverse effect of war was that, in order to keep up the morale of enormous conscript armies, the Nazis were forced to modify their commendable hostility to "Negroid" jazz and American-style popular music. Don't be dreary, Goebbels urged musicians: Lili Marlene before Max Reger.

Pfitzner died, I believe, in the poorhouse. Weinberger, another fine composer who happened to be Jewish, committed suicide in America. These woeful events, among many others, may serve as symbols of the ruin conferred alike by Hitler's blessing and by Hitler's curse — he was truly the kiss of death.



A 1987 poster by David Hockney for Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* at the Los Angeles Music Center Opera, taken from *Off the Wall: More Hockney Posters* (Pavilion, £19.99). The Wagner family's close relationship with Hitler and the postwar Bayreuth Festival are evoked by the composer's grandson in *Acts: The Autobiography of Wolfgang Wagner* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25)

Alistair Horne extols our noblest publisher

It's George, by George

At last! Here is the book that all of us, admirers of George Weidenfeld and detractors alike, have long been awaiting. It is the remarkable story of how an 18-year-old Jewish refugee from Hitler's Vienna, arriving in England in 1938 with one suitcase and a postal order for 16 shillings and 6 pence, made it to become a legendary figure in British publishing — and the Social Register of four continents.

Everybody has their favourite George anecdote, some flattering, some less so. I particularly like that told in Sir Nicholas Henderson's excellent *Mandarin*, quoting Mike Nichols, the American movie director: "Somewhere someone every thirty seconds is giving a party for George Weidenfeld." That is, when he wasn't giving one himself.

I myself recall a George party to "cheer up" a glum Peter Carrington after his resignation in 1982. Down the length of the famous alcove dining table on Chelsea Embankment (always reminding one a little of the Last Supper) the host faced Henry Kissinger, at his wittiest. Kissinger referred to one long letter in which Begin had reproved him for some Talmudic solecism; George, hitherto silent, remarked: "Yes, I remember it well; I was in his office when he dictated it!"

Of course he was there. It is this extraordinary mobility that makes him one of the most fascinating men of our times — like some strong-flying migratory bird that never rests long enough for you to have a good, long look at it.

Though it will distress the politically correct to say so, this is an intensely — and admirably — *Jewish* book, which lends it both its greatest strength, and appeal. The roll-call of names reminds one of the exceptional contributions of Jewish writers, publishers, agents, musicians, tycoons and statesmen — especially in this country. Its most moving parts relate Weidenfeld's childhood in Vienna and, later, the heady days as *chef de cabinet* to the great Chaim Weizmann in pioneer Israel. (Weizmann's dream was of a Switzerland of the Middle East).

"At least I tried to give you a sunny youth," his father wrote in an unfinished letter as he slumped dead at his desk. But it was a youth over which Hitler and anti-Semitism were spreading their sombre shadows. At university, he was denied the vicarious satisfaction of a duel: "Our fraternity does not give 'satisfaction' to non-Aryans."

Returning after the war, he records "a feeling of utter desolation" to find a Vienna emptied of all his Jewish friends and family: both his grandmothers had died in Nazi extermination camps. Yet he heard the voice of a Zionist visionary: "Hitlers come and go. We are indestructible. The Jewish people will live." And so began a lifelong dedication to the cause of Israel.

Given the background, one of the remarkable things about Weidenfeld the publisher has been the objectivity of his interest in the Nazi era. It was he who first published books like the Albert Speer and Hjalmar Schacht memoirs: his defence of Kurt Waldheim brought him much criticism from Jewish friends. To an eminent German who took the line that Germany would not be forgiven Hitler for a thousand years, George, the Jew, insisted that the time was now overdue for forgiveness. He explains in his memoirs, as a "historian *manqué*", the importance of "studying the enemy"; but also how he came to develop "a compassionate understanding of people's actions and behaviour in the face of totalitarian regimes".

The account of his "special relationship" with Harold Wilson is interesting too. He reveals for the first time how he undertook a secret mission as "honest broker" to George Bush (then head of the CIA) to clear Wilson of the "smear" charges against him. Weidenfeld has been open to the charge of opportunism; in the "Lavender List" Wilson both knighted and ennobled him — he then moved to the cross-benches. But here he explains, persuasively, his attachment to social democracy, dating back to Vienna days.

One of the most engaging raconteurs of our times, with an elephantine memory, Weidenfeld is less good on paper than in the flesh. He has probably given less than due recognition to the efforts of his collaborator, Gina Thomas, without whom this book might not have appeared at all. As it is, the social compendium of names, names, names has to be read rather as George greets guests at parties — looking over one's shoulder for the next eminence. In places it reads too much like an Almanach de Gotha of the Chattering Classes, or an end-of-term report.

The list of historic titles is staggering — *Tito Speaks*, the de Gaulle memoirs, Elizabeth Longford's *Queen Victoria*, *Lolita* and *The Group* — but one would like to know more about the nitty-gritty of how a great publishing house like Weidenfeld rose to such distinction. Perhaps it requires a more disinterested, outside biographer. The same applies to George's "turbulent" love life; his account of the whirlwind affair and marriage to Barbara Skelton makes lively reading when compared with hers (in *Weep No More*).

REMEMBERING MY GOOD FRIENDS
An Autobiography
By George Weidenfeld
HarperCollins, £20

Not dissimilar to his lightning espousal of authors (followed, often, by equally swift disenchantment) has been — by his own account — his multitudinous wooing of women. Repeatedly, as accolade of some great tycoon or statesman, there appears "great ladies' man" or "heartless seducer". In his lifelong devotion to opera, one sometimes feels from these pages that Don Giovanni is George's true hero — without the ending.

Happily, the ending in this autobiography is all roses. The Weidenfeld finances, often rocky, have been resolved by an admirable merger with Orion; he now has time to devote his energies to his brainchild, the "Europaeum" — the new Institute for European Studies in Oxford: he has established himself as a "bridge" to the Vatican; and Israel seems secure.

Above all, he has — he engagingly tells us in the final sentence — "at last found happiness", in the shape of his delightful fourth wife, Annabelle. George's legion of friends will reckon this just recompense for all the entertainment he has provided, and wish him the sunniness of old age that youth denied him.

Merciless killing

This is a terrible book. Everyone ought to read it. Shocked by the newsreels of Belsen when they were first shown in 1945, I forced myself to read a good deal of the literature about the concentration camps of Nazi Germany and the Final Solution, and thought that I had "supp'd full with horrors". Now comes this appalling account of Nazi atrocities in mental hospitals and homes for the disabled. Between 1939 and 1945 some 200,000 patients were murdered. Although some of the murderers were prosecuted as war criminals, many found their way back into German society without much difficulty.

Michael Burleigh is Reader in International History at the LSE. Nazi Germany is his special subject, and the bibliography and notes bear ample witness to his expertise as a scholar. It is difficult to believe that this account could be improved upon.

The story begins long before the Nazis came to power. The rediscovery of Mendel's work on genetics in 1900 led to speculation that eugenic programmes could prevent "inferior individuals" from breeding and gradually eliminate both mental and physical hereditary defects. In 1920, the jurist Karl Binding and the psychiatrist Alfred Hoche published a tract with the sinister title *The Sanctioning of the Destruction of Lives Unworthy to be Lived*. They pointed out that the care of "incurable idiots" cost the State a great deal of money.

In 1922, Gerhard Hoffmann suggested to the Reichstag that, in addition to permitting mercy killing of the terminally ill and "the exhausted", the mentally ill should be exterminated and crippled and incurably ill children should also be killed. Although such views were considered extreme at the time, they became official policy a decade later.

In July 1933, six months after Hitler came to power, "The Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Progeny" was published. It allowed for compulsory sterilisation in cases of congenital mental defect, schizophrenia, manic-depressive psychosis, hereditary epilepsy, severe alcoholism, and a variety of other conditions. "Between 1934 and May 1945, about 400,000 people were actually sterilised — about 1 per cent of the population capable of producing children."

Anthony Storr

DEATH AND DELIVERANCE
"Euthanasia" in Germany 1900-1945
By Michael Burleigh
Cambridge University Press, £35/£14.95 pbk

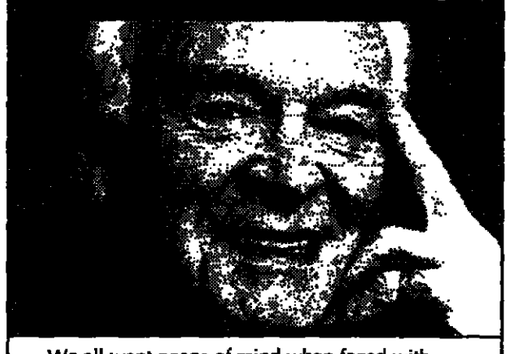
In 1939, it became compulsory to report the births of malformed or mentally handicapped children. Without seeing the children, a committee of three decided which should live and which should die. Those to be killed were sent to special clinics, in which they were either given overdoses of barbiturates or else simply starved to death. Parents were told that their child would get special treatment; later, that it had died of pneumonia.

"Somewhere in 1942-1943, the killing of children, adolescents, and young adults had become routine and systematic... As many as 6,000 children died." A visitor to the Munich asylum Eglfing-Haar in 1939 reported that the director, Hermann Pfannmüller, a convinced Nazi, took him to a children's ward. He explained that it was unnecessary to use drugs. "Our method is much simpler and more natural." With these words, and assisted by a nurse, he pulled one of the children out of bed. As he displayed the child around like a dead hare, he pointed out, with a knowing look and a cynical grin, "This one will last another two or three days." Deliberate starvation was also practised in asylums for adults.

This so-called euthanasia programme, known as Aktion T-4, was instituted in 1940. Systematic murder of psychiatric patients, mostly by gassing, was carried out in various designated mass extermination centres. For example, 1,911 of the 2,137 inmates of the Neuendettelsau asylum were removed and murdered. At Obrawalde, 18,232 died in three years. All those employed by T-4 "could avail themselves of cut-price dental work, which utilised gold recycled from the mouths of their victims".

There seems to have been little difficulty in persuading doctors and nurses to acquiesce in the "euthanasia" programme. Psychiatrists working in mental hospitals continued to treat those patients whom they thought might respond or recover, whilst allowing chronic inmates to be removed and exterminated. There were few protesters. Most lawyers, judges and clerics, says Burleigh, "turned a blind eye towards — or worse, actively colluded in — these policies, as can be seen from the fact that half of the victims in the first phase of the 'euthanasia' programme came from ecclesiastical asylums". There are no limits to human cruelty.

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Tony Britton

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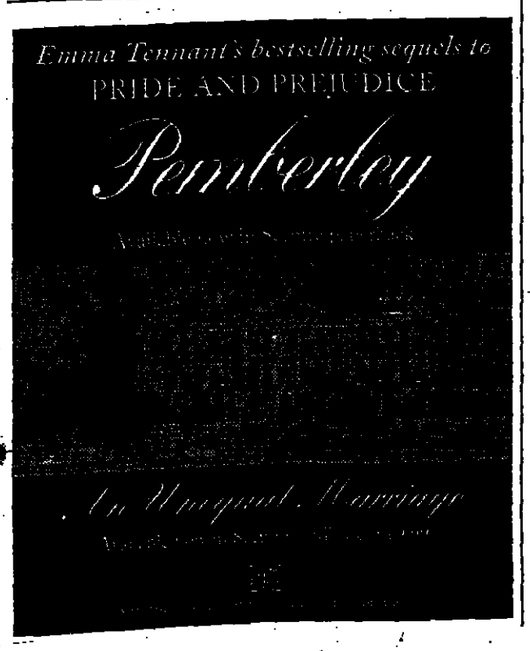
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Emma Tennant's bestselling sequels to PRIDE AND PREJUDICE



SATURDAY BOOKS



This Saturday, *The Times* Dillons Christmas Books Supplement: 24 pages of books for readers of all ages. And in *Weekend Times*: favourite books of 1994, chosen by writers such as William Boyd, Beryl Bainbridge, Antonia Fraser and Kathy Lette, politicians such as Roy Jenkins and Paddy Ashdown, and critics such as Christopher Ricks.

Inability to finish gets England off to poor start

England 0
Spain 0

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN
IN SYDNEY

ENGLAND and Spain drew their match on the opening day of the eighth World Cup hockey tournament here yesterday and, in the process, raised doubts about their capacity to progress beyond the first phase.

The teams had met on three occasions earlier this year, with Spain winning the first match 2-1 and England emerging victorious from the remaining two by the same scoreline. Just as England's successes in those two previous games should really have been more emphatic, so too should they have emerged from the encounter yesterday with a comfortable victory. They forced eight short corners and created nine chances from open play. Spain managed only one short corner.

Afterwards, Jon Potter, the England captain, likened the match to a game of chess. "The first game is always difficult," he said, "but we still have to treat it as a point won rather than a point lost. There is still a long way to go."

This philosophy was echoed by the coach, David Whitaker, who added: "I was disappointed but not despondent and I feel confident that we can still do very well."

However, David Whittle, the manager, was more forthright in his comments. "The dominance we held should have been converted into a better result. I feel that the players who had taken on the responsibility of putting the ball in the net had let each other down," he said.

He could well have been thinking of Crutchley, Thompson and Garcia, all of whom were strangely subdued yesterday. The only player to show any real flair was Mayer, the outside right, who was taken off after ten minutes in favour of Williams before being recalled at the start of the second half.

England were deprived of a goal from a late short corner when the ball was deflected on to a post by the Spanish goalkeeper. But they still had enough chances to have overcome such bad luck. "We did everything else right and were completely in charge," Whitaker said. "But, if you don't get shots on target, you don't score goals. It's as simple as that."

Spain launched a strong counter-offensive towards the end, but Thompson was so quick off the line that they were denied a shot from their only short corner. Mason, the England goalkeeper, touched the ball only once in the match, when he came out in the sixtieth minute to check a shot by Arnau.

The most surprising result on the opening day of the championships came in pool B, where a goal in the dying seconds by Gary Boddington enabled South Africa to draw 1-1 with Germany, who failed to impress. The Olympic champions had taken the lead in the seventh minute when Blunck, their captain, completed a short-corner move.

South Africa were captained by Wayne Graham, the Oxford University captain last year, and coached by an Englishman, Gary Featherstone. "England won't give me a job, so I've had to go elsewhere," Featherstone said. "It's my aim to take South Africa, playing in their first World Cup, to the semi-finals — and today we showed we are capable of doing it."

England's biggest rivals in pool A both opened with victories. Australia had to work hard for a 2-0 win over Belorussia, Elmer scoring in the eighth minute from a short corner and Hager adding the second goal three minutes from time. Pakistan's greater speed and skill eventually proved too much for Argentina, who lost 3-0.

Belorussia were fined £350 for wearing unauthorised shirt advertising on their debut. The former Soviet republic clinched a sponsorship deal only a few days before the tournament started.

TEAMS

ENGLAND: S Mason (Firebrands); P McGuire (Teddington), J Haffe (Old Loughtonians), J Potter (Hounslow, captain), Soma Singh (Southgate), S Hazlitt (Hounslow), C Mayer (Cannock), R Garcia (Polo Club, Barcelona), N Thompson (Old Loughtonians), J Laslett (Teddington), R Crutchley (Hounslow). Substitutes used: D Williams (Havant), J Shaw (Southgate), S Nicklin (Teddington).

SPAIN: R Jufresa, J Malgosa (captain), J Amat, J Garcia-Maurino, J Ejarque, P Usoz, X Escude, J Escarre, D Freixa, V Pujol, X Arnau. Substitutes used: R Sala, P Garcia, X Molne, J Dinares.

Umpires: R Lamouwers (Holland) and R Wolfer (Germany).



KENNY RODGER

Thompson, of England, forces his way past Ejarque, of Spain, during yesterday's draw

Nerurkar confident of British success at Alnwick

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD Nerurkar, three times the English champion, expects the British men's team to figure prominently in the first European cross-country championships, at Alnwick, Northumberland, on December 10. In the team of six, announced yesterday, Nerurkar will be joined by David Lewis, who has also won three English titles.

Optimistic that Britain can be team medal-winners, Nerurkar is equally confident that he will be among the leading individuals. "If I look back over the last four or five years, I am clearly one of the top cross-country runners in Europe, so I certainly expect to be right up there at the front of the field," Nerurkar said.

Nerurkar, who was fourth in the marathon at the European championships in Helsinki in August, is having a short, sharp cross-country season before his next marathon, in February or March.

Even if he wins the European title, he will not be tempted away from his marathon plans to run in the world championships in Durham next March. His main target for 1995 is the marathon at the world track-and-field championships in Gothenburg.

Of the team's prospects, he said: "We do not have all the top names in British cross-country running, but a good few of them. It will be a good team."

Four athletes who would have made the first-choice British women's team are unavailable: Liz McColgan, Yvonne Murray, Paula Radcliffe and Alison Wyeth. Yet Heather Heasman, the best Briton on recent form of those remaining, has been omitted.

BRITISH TEAM: Men: D Lewis (Rossendale), R Nerurkar (Bingley), A Passey (Bromsgrove and Redditch), A Pearson (Longwood), S White (Coventry), B Royden (Medway). Reserve: R Findlow (Bradford). Women: L Adam (Parkside), A Duke (Mandale), B Hartigan (Birchfield), A Hulley (Leeds City), A Wallace (Torbay), T Blake (Blackheath). Reserve: S Barbour (Birchfield).

World Cup racers wait for snowfall

THE opening races this weekend in the men's Alpine skiing World Cup in Sestriere and the season's first downhill next month in Val d'Isère were postponed yesterday because of lack of snow in the Alps. The Italian resort of Sestriere had been scheduled to host a giant slalom on Saturday and a slalom under floodlights on Sunday evening, the first World Cup race ever scheduled after dark.

"We had been using six helicopters to ferry snow down from higher up the mountain but the FIS [International Ski Federation] World Cup referee decided that it was not possible for the race to go ahead," the Sestriere spokesman, Livio Berruti, said. "The temperatures are so mild it's like spring. We had a lot of snow three weeks ago but it melted."

The next men's World Cup race, a downhill on December 3 in the French resort of Val d'Isère, has also been postponed. Organisers said a decision on whether to stage a super-giant slalom the next day would be taken on Sunday.

Bowler suspended

CRICKET: The Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) has suspended the fast bowler, Assadullah Butt, for four matches of a domestic tournament and ordered him to pay a £100 fine for ball-tampering in a first-class match. It is the first time Pakistan's cricket authorities have banned and fined a player for ball-tampering.

"Butt confessed to using a bottle neck to rough up the ball surface in a first-class match," a BCCP official said yesterday. The offence took place during a Patron's Trophy league match in Karachi on November 1-4.

Two-year ban for Yang

SWIMMING: Yang Aihua, of China, who won the women's 400 metres freestyle title at the world championships in Rome in September, has been suspended for two years after testing positive for a prohibited substance, the International Swimming Federation (Fina) announced yesterday. Two samples of Yang's urine from a test conducted in Hiroshima on September 30 showed an excessive level of the male hormone testosterone.

No repeat for Bray

REAL TENNIS: Chris Bray, the new French Open champion, failed to repeat his giant-killing exploits when he lost to Lachlan Deuchar, the former world No 1, in straight sets in the quarter-final of the British Land British Open championships at Queen's Club. Deuchar, the Harbour Club professional, who thrives on the lively Queen's court, made few unforced errors, retrieving and volleying superbly against the consistent Bray, the Petworth professional.

Armenian sets record

WEIGHTLIFTING: Sergo Chakhoyan, of Armenia, set a world snatch record in the men's 83kg section at the world championships in Istanbul yesterday, lifting 175.5kg, half a kilo more than the world standard established by the international federation last year. Earlier, Zhou Meihong, of China, set a world jerk record in the women's 70kg category, lifting 128.5kg to beat the previous best set by Tang Weifang last month in the Asian Games.

SPORTS LETTERS

Hastings hard to replace

From Mr D. C. Hamill

Sir, Gavin Hastings should retire from international rugby, according to John Hopkins (November 21). Maybe he is right, maybe he is wrong — certainly there are many Scots who would disagree with his conclusion. Regardless of the correctness or otherwise of the assessment, there is one vital point that Hopkins overlooks: there is little point in replacing a player unless you have someone better to put in his place.

The fact of the matter is that, unlike England, Scotland do not have a bottomless pit of players to call on. In fact, for every individual playing rugby in Scotland there are 15 in England. Given this situation, it is hardly surprising if Scotland do not lightly discard a man like Gavin Hastings.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HAMILL,
Housemaster, Woodlands,
Gresham's School,
Cromer Road, Holt, Norfolk.

Right players

From Mr Alan Routs

Sir, I am astonished at the comments from Raymond Illingworth concerning lack of contact with Michael Atherton (report, November 23).

What on earth is the role of M J K. Smith, the England tour manager in Australia? Why does the chairman of selectors expect the captain of the team to give him "a tinkle"?

Mr Illingworth would be best advised to stick to selecting the right players in the first place and let Atherton get on with his job.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN ROUTS,
5 Waldegrave Road,
Teddington,
Middlesex.

Spectators want more cricket

From Mr Alan Viney

Sir, I must contest the views put forward by Mr P. J. Wilde (Sports Letters, November 17).

We have now had two of the prescribed three years of four-day championship cricket during which, it seems to me, the game has lost considerably in entertainment value without giving any evidence of producing a stronger Test side.

I think Mr Wilde would do well to take the comments of his overseas friends with a grain of salt. I have seen Sheffield Shield cricket at Sydney and I did not notice any evidence of a higher standard. What I did notice was a decided lack of interest amongst the Australian public. Almost the only spectators at the games I saw were pensioners (admission free) and truant schoolboys.

One reason for this is undoubtedly the fact that their Test match players rarely play in the Sheffield Shield. Shane Warne has just played his first (and probably last) game for Victoria and Boon played his first for Tasmania for two years. There may be unusual reasons for this, but over the last few winters Allan Border and Mark Waugh have appeared in fewer than half their respective states' games.

It is, of course, important that sub-standard pitches should be outlawed. But what is a "good" pitch? There seems to be a view that a good pitch is one on which certain individuals can bat all day and score 105 not out, or on which Auntie Nellie could get 50. I suppose a reasonable definition of a good pitch would be one that is fast and true to start with and that slowly deteriorates over the three or four days. If we had one groundsman in the country who could guarantee to produce such pitches in all conditions we would be lucky, let alone find 18 of them. Incidentally, Mike Atherton made a telling comment after England's game against the Prime Minister's XI. He said: "It was not an ideal pitch for a one-day match ... but these pitches tend to produce more interesting cricket than you often find in games of this kind."

I am convinced that the four-day structure is popular chiefly with those who earn their living from the game — they have a five-day week, haven't they? We who pay to watch want more cricket and more-entertaining cricket.

I do not expect the four-day structure to be abandoned, so how about a bit of good old British compromise? Instead of one four-day game each week, let us have three four-day games each fortnight, Tuesday to Friday, Saturday plus Monday to Wednesday, and Thursday to Saturday plus Monday would be the ideal set-up. We could then have at least 24 rounds of championship matches, and possibly more if we can find a way to prevent ten, 14 or 16 counties being idle whilst eight, four or two play cup games.

As for touring teams, let them play our second XIs as we have to do overseas.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN VINEY,
1 Royle Close,
Lawrence Road,
Heath Park, Romford, Essex.

Earlier incident

From Mr I. F. Johnston

Sir, Mr R. N. Gregg's letter (November 17) about the Stirling Moss/Mike Hawthorn incident which decided the 1958 world motor racing championship, as described in Ivan Rendall's *Chequered Flag*, is accurate except for one important point: it did not take place during the final race of the season in Casablanca but two races earlier at Oporto.

The crucial question is whether Moss would have made the same sporting gesture had he realised the consequences of his actions. Anyone who knows of his career and the manner in which he always conducted himself inside and outside the cockpit will have no doubt that he would. Schumacher and co. should take note.

Yours faithfully,
I. F. JOHNSTON,
10 Rowan Close,
Penwortham,
Preston, Lancashire.

Journeymen under threat

From Mr Sam Jacobs

Sir, John Hopkins (November 18) is right to report the reaction to the prospect of a super tour involving the world's top players as "the biggest threat the world of professional golf has faced".

The top 30-40 players are nearly all multimillionaires: do they need yet more cash? They always take the lion's share of the fat. The super tour will make life harder for the ordinary professional, capturing television coverage to the exclusion of other events where the journeymen earn their living.

What is needed is a wider spread of events with a better spread of money, and if the names would spread themselves as well, we the public would be better served.

As a long handicapper I enjoy, as does everyone, seeing Seve Ballesteros having a go, but I also enjoy seeing someone playing my type of stroke. Some of the super players can be a bit of a bore.

Yours sincerely,
SAM JACOBS,
5 College Road, SE21.

Only for honour

From Dr Philip R. Brown

Sir, Prize-money in professional sport is now so generous that one frequently hears of £100,000 prizes in snooker or £150,000 in golf. What a marvellous change it was, then, to hear on the radio last week of the "50p" tennis tournament in Frankfurt. It was really refreshing to hear of players such as Boris Becker and Pete Sampras competing for the honour of victory, with only nominal prize-money.

Yours truly,
PHILIP BROWN,
119 Evington Drive, Leicester.

Sporting paradox

From Mr Michael Dunton

Sir, Footballers and cricketers allegedly contriving results of matches: the nation is horrified. Rally teams discussing contriving the result of one of the premier events in their calendar: no problem at all: it's all part of the sport.

Can someone please explain?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DUNTON,
94 Stamford Avenue,
Springfield, Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire.

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Kicking the cliché into touch



Simon Barnes reviews a selection of sports books notable for their originality and clarity of vision

Cliché is a quality of mind, not of phraseology. Sport has a colossal reputation for cliché, and sport is guilty, all right. But then many other areas of life are just as guilty: popular music, cooking and politics.

Vast numbers of awful sports books are published every year, but that does not make sport unique. Popular music, cooking and politics can all give sport a run for its money on any publisher's list.

Publishers shy away from originality in any sphere; the harder the times, the greater the shying. Stick to the ghosted autobiography: swap clarity of vision for Christmas sales and a decent rights deal.

The William Hill Sports Book of the Year award has been fighting against the Cliché Tendency for half a dozen years, and this year produced a daunting shortlist of books written with a genuine clarity of vision.

"Literature is news that STAYS news," Ezra Pound said, words that anyone attempting a book on any subject should take to heart before pressing the SAVE button.

The winner this year is Simon Kuper, for a book called *Football Against the Enemy*. If you like football, read it. If you don't like football, read it.

It is about football's place in the real world. Kuper spent a year or so buzzing about the world on thruppence ha'penny a day, talking to, say, an East German who was exiled because he had supported the same team from boyhood. The Wall stopped him going to matches, but his heart still beat for Hertha, and the Stasi, the East German secret police, could not stomach such a thing. It was nothing less than a crime against the state.

Or talking to Roger Milla in Cameroon, or female footballers in the United States. Kuper is, by temperament, an "objective" writer, which means that his personal vision is a matter of whispering flutes rather than trumpets.

The point is not the hard travelling, the personal privations or the neat, unflashy writing. It is, yes, the quality of vision: football seen without the lens of cliché.

The shortlist included *Letting Rip*, a book on modern fast bowling by my colleague on *The Times* sports desk, Simon Wilde. This, too, is a book of some originality, in concept and in execution.

It is an idiosyncratic, rather eccentric book, more trumpet than flute, though this is hardly a criticism. It comes clean about one of cricket's darkest secrets: that cricket is not only a frightening game, but it is supposed to be. One will opposes another; moral and physical courage are examined on a pathologist's bench.

I also enjoyed *Anyone But England* by Mike Marqusee, a book forever to be associated with Marqusee's self-description as "a deracinated Marxist of American Jewish origin". He is fascinated by the rhythms of the game, appalled, as only a deracinated American Marxist can be, by the absolute awfulness of the English class system. Nobody who holds an opinion on either subject, whether or not he or she can pass the Tebbit Cricket Test, should ignore this offering.

Another honourable mention must go to Mihir Bose, for his *Sporting Colours*, a book on sport and politics in South Africa. Lord, how fast our world views change.

In 1990, Nelson Mandela was still on Robben Island and Gatting's rebels were setting off to tour South Africa and, across England, people were saying "jolly good show". This is a book to buy, read and keep on your shelf to read a decade hence. Was it really as dreadful, as insanely hypocritical, as that? It was, it was, and there are young Germans who refuse to believe the death camps ever existed.

There are two more books on the shortlist; alas, I have not seen them. Don't want to give review copies to just anyone, do you? But if they bear comparison with the above, they must be all right.

Of those I have seen, we have three goodies and one absolute belter. Or in the words of a famous Fleet Street memo: "Writers must avoid clichés like the plague."

THE SHORTLIST

Football Against the Enemy by Simon Kuper, published by Orion, price £14.99

Letting Rip. The Fast-Bowling Threat from Lillee to Waqar by Simon Wilde, H F and G Witherby, £15.99

Anyone but England: Cricket and the National Malaise by Mike Marqusee, Verso, £16.95

Sporting Colours: Sport and Politics in South Africa, Mihir Bose, Robson Books, £17.95.

James Hunt: The Biography by Gerald Donaldson, Collins Willow, £15.99.

On Top of the World by Rebecca Stephens, Macmillan, £14.99.

Norman looks to future

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN SYDNEY

THE bookmakers here make Greg Norman the favourite to win the Heineken Australian Open, which started at Royal Sydney earlier today, but it is far from being a safe bet. Admittedly, the Queenslander, now based in Florida, has won the title three times already, but the last time was in 1987 and his last victory of any sort in his native land was in 1990, in the Australian Masters.

Norman suffers because he is in such demand when he is in his home country that he does not have time to concentrate on his golf. In addition, he has his mind on even bigger and better things as a leading advocate-general of the proposed World Tour.

Already a tournament supremo, he was behind, for example, last week's Shark Shoot-Out in California, which was won by Fred Couples and Brad Faxon, who is the defending champion here — he is also an international businessman, teaming up with, among others, Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, ultimate owner of *The Times*.

It is Murdoch's television company, Fox, that is putting up £16.5 million to back the World Tour and Norman is so enthusiastic about the project that he — personally — has promised to cover any losses in the first year. The first rule of tycoonery is surely to use someone else's money, but Norman the enthusiast seems to hold sway over Norman the hard-headed businessman.

The word is that sponsors are as enthusiastic as Norman, but others have their doubts, including the US PGA Tour, which has already met representatives of its new rival, John Montgomery Jr, the executive director of the World Tour, recently offered a compromise plan involving six tournaments instead of the originally scheduled eight and the possibility of switching some events from the PGA Tour to the World Tour to avoid scheduling conflicts.

"We gave the Tour a number of either-or scenarios," Montgomery said. "Our first event won't be played until the May-June time frame, which gives the tournaments, the television sponsors and the television networks a chance to look at both sides of the issue and decide how feasible this is for next year."

The PGA's response was cold. "We're trying to be constructive with them," Ed Moorhouse, the PGA's leading attorney, said, "but the bottom line is we have contractual obligations we certainly have to honour."

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Stoke v Rotherham (7.0); Tranmere v Manchester United; Nottingham Forest v Wolverhampton (7.0). Second division: Burnley v Mansfield (7.15)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk v St Patrick's Ath (8.0); Cork v Cobh Ramblers.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Petersfield Town v Portsmouth RN. League Cup: Second round, second leg: AFC Totton v Thatcham Town; Petersfield Town v Portsmouth RN.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: London v Leicester (8.0); Sunderland v Doncaster (8.0).

REAL TENNIS: British Open (Queen's Club).

SNOOKER: Royal Liver Assurance UK championship (BBC, Preston).

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Relkeel raises hopes for Champion

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

DO NOT mention the Smurfit Champion Hurdle to David Nicholson. For the past three seasons, the champion trainer has believed he had the ammunition to take the hurdlers' crown. Each time injury — or worse — intervened.

Yesterday, the serious prospect of having another leading contender for the big race at the Cheltenham festival sprung to everyone's mind after Relkeel gained one of the cheekiest and most impressive victories seen for a while at jump racing's headquarters.

Privately, Nicholson thinks the world of the horse, owned and bred by the 94-year-old Brigadier "Roscoe" Harvey.

Nap: ANZUM
(2.00 Nottingham)
Next best: Billygoat Gruff
(3.30 Nottingham)

But he will not allow himself to contemplate what may be in store for his grey five-year-old.

"I don't know where he will go until I have discussed it with the 'Brig' over a bottle of champagne. If I start mentioning the Champion Hurdle something is sure to go wrong. I have mentioned it three times in the last three years [Carobee twice and Mighty Mogul] and they have all gone boom, boom, boom. So we don't mention it."

After watching Relkeel win his sixth race from eight starts, the bookmakers were not so reluctant. Corals, whose Champion Hurdle price of 33-1 was snapped up yesterday morning, cut him to 20-1. Ladbrokes were even more impressed and go 16-1.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Relkeel and Maguire negotiate the last hurdle smoothly on their way to an impressive Cheltenham victory

Adrian Maguire sat as quiet as a mouse as Relkeel won the Bateman Catering Hurdle without coming off the bridle. "He's a serious horse," the jockey stated.

Nicholson added: "He's a lovely big horse. When we started with him last year we thought he was useless, but he has not stopped improving. For a big horse he has terrific foot. You don't often see a jockey as cheeky as that at Cheltenham."

The proud owner has always looked forward to the day when the Relkino gelding's ample frame — he stands more than 17 hands — goes over fences, but he knows he must wait a while. "We might just win the Champion Hurdle," he reflected.

In the meantime, trainer and owner will discuss if Relkeel should run in the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown on December 3, when he is set to carry 10st 2lb, the same weight as the *David Elsworth's Atours.*

If Nicholson wants to forget about the one race, Nigel Twiston-Davies would no doubt like to draw a discreet veil over the entire proceedings at Cheltenham yesterday.

Montebel, well backed in the Compass Catering Novices' Chase, got no further than the first fence and his fate set the pattern for the trainer's runners.

Earth Summit, the 6-5 favourite for the Compass Group Handicap Chase, looked likely to oblige after taking up the running three fences from home, only to crumple on landing at the next. Warner For Winners took advantage of the mishap to win and may go for the Welsh National.

The second-last fence also proved the undoing of Visaga when leading the field in the Chartwells Intermediate Handicap Chase, although it is questionable whether he would have contained the winner, River Mandate, who is owned, like the legendary Arkle, by Anne, Duchess of Westminster.

An interesting spectacle will be the route to be taken by jockeys when they encounter the new cross-country course which is being built at Cheltenham. The course and a £10,000-added three-mile chase, which will staged there next November, is being sponsored by Sporting Index, the innovative company which has been responsible for the success of spread betting.

The cross-country course will have 22 obstacles including banks, ditches, natural hedges, water and timber, as well as three steeplechase fences. In total there will 16 bends to be negotiated, eight *to the left and eight to the* right. To qualify, horses will need to have been placed first or second in a steeplechase or to have won two open point-to-points.

In addition, horses will have to school over the course unless they have run in a European cross-country steeplechase or raced over the La Touche course at Punchestown.

New rules to cut through red tape for owners

By Richard Evans

THE bureaucratic red tape which engulfs anybody attempting to register as a racehorse owner is being swept away next month.

A series of initiatives agreed by the British Horseracing Board (BHB), the Jockey Club and Weatherbys will remove much of the form filling and expense which confronts people wishing to have a horse in training.

The new rules follow a survey of existing owners and responds to the significant growth of horses *owned by partnerships.* In many cases, the cost of registration will be cheaper.

The creation of a new type of ownership — known as "Racing Partnership" — will mean only two partners have to register as owners. At present, all owners must register. The composition of a partnership will be able to change, with partners dropping out or new people joining, without the need to terminate existing partnerships and register afresh.

The maximum number of partners has been increased and can range from two to *20 people. One registration* will cover any number of horses, without the need for individual certification for each *animal. The* application form will also cover the name of the horse and colours.

In most cases the cost of registration will be cheaper. For example, a new 12-strong partnership will be £294.50, as opposed to £726.50. Registration for sole owners is also being simplified with three of the forms which had to be completed being amalgamated. It will also be easier to lease horses.

Lee Richardson, marketing director of the BHB, said yesterday: "These new measures will help us in our drive to attract more owners into the sport. The popularity of partnerships has grown enormously in recent years, and these new, simpler and potentially cheaper, *registration procedures* can only help stimulate further growth in this area."

John Biggs, director general of the Racehorse Owners Association, added: "The liberalisation of the orders and rules of racing, which enables the introduction of this new form of racing partnership, is welcome news for all existing owners. It will also encourage greater participation among potential owners and this too is a significant step forward."

The Horserace Betting Levy Board has approved improvement schemes at *five racecourses, involving* expenditure of £475,000. The courses to benefit are Catterick, Redcar, Taunton, *Fakenham and Yarmouth.* The board has also approved an increase of three per cent in the grants made to point-to-point racing for the 1995 season. A total of £182,760 will be distributed between the 213 meetings.

THUNDERER

1.10 Nordic Crown
1.40 Young Baldric
2.10 Too Sharp
2.40 L'Uomo Piu
3.10 Play Games
3.40 Inchcailloch

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 TAMMY'S FRIEND.

GOING: GOOD — SIS

1.10 WESTERN PROVIDENT JUVENILE NOVICES SELLING HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £1,872: 2m 1f) (14 runners)

101 41 NORDIC CROWN 23 (B,G) (A Lomas) M Pipe 10-13 — R Dunwoody 99
102 2P041 PETITE BIJOU 18 (G) (Mrs T Hadsell) R Brotherton 10-13 — N Williamson 94
103 0- INDIAN TEMPLE 23 (D Clarke) M Saunders 10-12 — P Holley —
104 0- MORPETH 8 (J Joseph) R Frost 10-12 — J Frost —
105 MOUNT LEINSTER [illegible] — M Pelosi —
106 6 NORTHERN STARLIGHT 75F (R Castle) P Nicholls 10-12 — C Maude —
107 P RED DERRY 35 (C Cooper) A Barrow 10-12 — B Powell —
108 4 SILVER BRIEF 87 (B) (T Cooper) D ffrench Davis 10-12 — A Jones 82
109 6F SUPERMICK 43 (BF) (The Supermick Partnership) J White 10-12 — J Railton 85
110 4P CA IRA 10 (J Purcell) R Emery 10-7 — P Ward (7) 71
111 3530 FABULOUS PRINCESS 14 (Mrs J Emery) C Popham 10-7 — W Marston 99
112 SAFFRON RIVER 213F (J Stranger) W G M Turner 10-7 — T Murphy (7) —
113 P VITE ETOILE 9 (Drayton Racing Partnership) R Hodges 10-7 — A Tory —
114 P WILKS DREAM 9 (Miss S Waterman) Miss S Waterman 10-7 — Mr G Shenkin (7) —

BETTING: 4-6 Nordic Crown, 6-1 Petite Bijou, 10-1 Mount Leinster, 12-1 Northern Starlight, Supermick, 14-1 Silver Brief, Fabulous Princess, 16-1 others.

1993: AL FORUM 10-12 D O'Sullivan (9-4 fav) R Ingham 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

NORDIC CROWN beat Minster's Madam 5l in 11-runner selling novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good), with PETITE BIJOU 3l 4th and INDIAN TEMPLE (6lb better off) distance 8th. PETITE BIJOU beat First In The Field 5l in 12-runner selling hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft), with CA IRA pulled up before 2 out. MOUNT LEINSTER 23l 9th of 17 to Kingchip Boy in handicap at Brighton (1m, good). SILVER BRIEF 22l 4th of 9 to Tordo in novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to firm). CA IRA about 14l 4th of 6 to Window Display in selling hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start, with SUPERMICK in 3rd when left at last. FABULOUS PRINCESS 2¾l 3rd of 10 to Good Fetch in selling novice hurdle over course and distance (firm), with NORDIC CROWN (6lb worse off) 1¾l 4th.
Selection: NORDIC CROWN

1.40 WPA COMPANY SUPERCOVER NOVICES CHASE
(£4,338: 2m 3f) (9 runners)

201 0350-11 YOUNG BALDRIC 35 (F) (Blakeley Painters Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-5 W Marston 99
202 3314/05 ALLO GEORGE 9 (G) (Lavis Medical Systems) A Newcombe 8-11-1 B Clifford —
203 306/P0 CHAMPAGNE RUN 14 (F,G) (T Connor) S Knight 9-11-1 V Slattery —
204 P322F0 CHANNEL PASTIME 18 (G) (Mrs S Worthington) D Burchell 10-11-1 Guy Lewis 86
205 P54403 GILBERT 41 (F) (Mrs A Carey) D Carey 6-11-1 B Powell 82
206 3P0P-33 WILLIE McGARR 22 (G,S) (Mrs D Thomas) Miss D Thomas 9-11-1 N Williamson 94
207 213P-31 PRINCESS HOTPOT 21 (G) (Mrs S Brasher) Miss H Knight 6-11-0 M Perrett 88
208 153333 LAND OF THE FREE 14 (F,S) (R Jobes) R Baker 5-10-13 J Osborne 86
209 43P/000- OH SO WINDY 292 (Royal Oak, Kinnersley, Racing) Mrs A King 7-10-10 W McFarland —

BETTING: 4-7 Young Baldric, 5-1 Princess Hotpot, 7-1 Land Of The Free, 8-1 Willie McGarr, 16-1 Champagne Run, Gilbert, 20-1 others.

1993: SAN LORENZO 5-11-0 N Williamson (13-8 fav) K Bailey 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

YOUNG BALDRIC beat Mick The Dreamer 12l in 4-runner novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, firm). CHANNEL PASTIME best recent effort 2l 2nd of 3 to Zamirah in novice chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, firm). GILBERT 4l and short-head 3rd of 9 to Times Lad in selling handicap chase at Ludlow (2m, firm). WILLIE McGARR 14l 3rd of 6 to Leotard in novice chase at Kempton (2m, good to soft). PRINCESS HOTPOT beat No Debt 4l in 7-runner novice chase at Wincanton (2m, good). LAND OF THE FREE 12¾l 3rd of 8 to Magsood in novice handicap chase over course and distance (2m 3f, good).
Selection: YOUNG BALDRIC (nap)

2.10 WPA BIBA MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,534: 2m 3f 110yd) (11 runners)

301 41224-2 ZEALOUS KITTEN 8 (G,S) (M Coleman) R Price 6-11-13 S Curran (5) 93
302 004436/ COUNTESS VERUSCHKA 656 (G,S) (H Davies) K Bailey 8-11-9 N Williamson —
303 60666-5 POWLEYVALE 40 (G,S) (M St Quinton) O Sherwood 7-11-8 J Osborne 88
304 530/054- REVE EN ROSE 364 (B,C,D,F,G) (M McMillan) M McMillan 8-10-11 W Marston 93
305 P2122P- CRAZY DAISY 202 (G,S) (Mrs P Hatch) W G M Turner 7-10-10 T Murphy (7) 99
306 540213- ALICE SMITH 309 (S) (Mrs J Eckley) B Eckley 7-10-9 D Matthews (5) 85
307 6102-40 CHAPEL HILL 16 (B,G) (E O'Malley) D Burchell 6-10-7 R Dunwoody 89
308 3244-1P TOO SHARP 30 (CD,F) (Sir Anthony Scott) Miss H Knight 6-10-6 R Farrant 95
309 P2263-F STORMY SUNSET 7 (Mrs J Dennis) W Dennis 7-10-0 Mr J Culloty (7) 90
310 13F113- NEARLY HONEST 176F (C,F,G) (J Cullen) R Hodges 6-10-0 Miss S Mitchell (7) 91
311 5P/140-3 EMMA VICTORIA 16 (F) (Mrs P Catlin) R Brotherton 6-10-0 C Maude 80

Long handicap: Stormy Sunset 9-7, Nearly Honest 9-1, Emma Victoria 8-7.

BETTING: 9-4 Zealous Kitten, 9-2 Powleyvale, 6-1 Countess Veruschka, Alice Smith, 7-1 Too Sharp, 10-1 Crazy Daisy, 12-1 others.

1993: MISS MARIGOLD 4-11-0 R Dunwoody (2-1 fav) R Hodges 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

ZEALOUS KITTEN 4l 2nd of 7 to Googly in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good to soft). COUNTESS VERUSCHKA 5l 5th of 18 to Friendly Argument in novice chase at Fairyhouse (2m 4f, good to yielding) in February 1993. POWLEYVALE distance 5th of 8 to Eid in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good). CRAZY DAISY best effort last season, 3l 2nd of 15 to Spuffington in novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good). CHAPEL HILL 15l 4th of 11 to The Carrous in handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, soft) on penultimate start. TOO SHARP beat Toomuch Toosoon 3l in 12-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: TOO SHARP

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S Mellor	6	19	31.6	J Osborne	9	35	25.7
M Pipe	42	167	25.1	M Perrett	6	26	23.1
J King	4	16	25.0	N Williamson	4	21	19.0
K Bailey	3	18	16.7	D Morris	3	18	16.7
Miss H Knight	3	20	15.0	D Salter	4	25	16.0
J White	3	21	14.3	D Matthews	3	20	15.0

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 — B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.40 WPA QUALITY HANDICAP CHASE (£7,198: 3m) (8 runners)

401 130522 ST ATHANS LAD 45 (B,F,G) (Geyer Estates Ltd) R Curtis 9-11-10 — D Morris 92
402 U1114F WHATAGALE 16 (D,BF,F,G) (C Cowe) O Sherwood 7-11-2 — J Osborne 95
403 1P45-41 TAMMY'S FRIEND 9 (B,D,F,S) (Mrs J Mayo) C Mann 7-11-1 — R Dunwoody 99
404 4/4405-F SIDE OF HILL 6 (F,S) (M & N Plant Ltd) R Simpson 9-11-1 — M Perrett 94
405 331F1-U NEARLY SPLENDID 9 (CD,F,G,S) (S Stevens) S Stevens 9-10-12 — Mr T Greed 91
406 4-434P2 L'UOMO PIU 14 (C,F,G,S) (C Spencer) A Barrow 10-10-6 — B Powell 98
407 2123P-2 BOLD CHOICE 8 (F,G) (J Joseph) R Frost 8-10-5 — J Frost 90
408 4/2-0P35 FATHER DOWLING 7 (G) (Mrs E Haycock) G Balding 7-10-2 — B Clifford 91

BETTING: 7-4 Tammy's Friend, 5-2 Whatagale, 9-2 L'Uomo Piu, 7-1 St Athans Lad, 8-1 Bold Choice, 10-1 Nearly Splendid, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

ST ATHANS LAD 9l 2nd of 4 to Congregation in handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, firm). WHATAGALE best effort when beating Real Progress 5l in 7-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm). TAMMY'S FRIEND 1½l 2nd of 6 to Sibton Abbey in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good to soft). NEARLY SPLENDID beat The Malakarma 1¾l in 13-runner hunter chase at Cheltenham (4m 1f, good to firm) final start last season. L'UOMO PIU short-head 2nd of 9 to Pop Song in handicap chase over course and distance (good), with FATHER DOWLING (5lb better off) 20l 3rd. BOLD CHOICE 9l 2nd of 8 to Mister Oddy in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, heavy).
Selection: L'UOMO PIU

3.10 WPA PROVIDENTAL NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,713: 2m 1f) (14 runners)

501 56/ ACROSS THE BAY 8F (M Marlow) R Emery 7-10-12 — P Ward (7) —
502 FIREBIRD LAD 187P (N Babbage) N Babbage 6-10-12 — W Humphreys —
503 1-0 NATIVE ALLIANCE 21 (BF,S) (Mrs L Sewell) M Pipe 5-10-12 — R Dunwoody —
504 D/5 PLAY GAMES 26 (Lady Mays-Smith) Lady Eliza Mays-Smith 6-10-12 J McCarthy 97
505 5P2 POINCIANA 14 (T Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 5-10-12 — R Farrant 86
506 0-0P SCORPION BAY 7 (B) (D Bay) B Forsey 6-10-12 — D Leahy (3) —
507 4- SPRING SAINT 234 (Miss C Horler) Miss C Horler 5-10-12 — G Upton 81
508 0433 MORSTOCK 7 (Mrs M Fairbairn) R Hodges 4-10-11 — A Tory 99
509 0 WHATONE BELL 14 (L Wadge) P Hayward 4-10-11 — S Fox (5) —
510 WORLD EXPRESS 19F (World Express Ltd) B Millman 4-10-11 — D Salter (5) —
511 S/5 BOLD REINE 87 (J Miller) A Barrow 5-10-7 — B Powell —
512 UPFP- DINER SHU 206P (S Mitchell) N Mitchell 5-10-7 — J Titley —
513 GREY WATCH 285F (Miss L Wonnacott) Miss L Wonnacott 4-10-6 Mr B Pollock (7) —
514 MISS SECRET (Miss K Roche) N Mitchell 4-10-6 — N Williamson —

BETTING: 9-4 Native Alliance, 3-1 Poinciana, 5-1 Play Games, 7-1 Morstock, 10-1 World Express, 14-1 Spring Saint, 16-1 others.

1993: NOBLELY 6-10-12 N Williamson (9-1) N Walker 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

ACROSS THE BAY about 35l 6th of 9 to Classic Account in novice hurdle at Lingfield (AW, 2m 2f) in February 1992. NATIVE ALLIANCE tailed off 10th of 15 to Severn Gale in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to soft). Better effort, beat Nabla 3½l in 12-runner National Hunt Flat race at Chepstow (2m 1f, soft) only start last season. PLAY GAMES 14¼l 5th of 12 to Beracle Not To in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to firm). POINCIANA 8l 2nd of 11 to Smart In Sable in novice hurdle over course and distance (good). SPRING SAINT 35l 4th of 11 to Keep Me In Mind in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, soft) last season. MORSTOCK 5l 3rd of 21 to Inchcailloch in novice handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good).
Selection: MORSTOCK

3.40 WPA HEALTH INSURANCE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,615: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

601 0/0P2-2 SHELLHOUSE 16 (BF) (R Roberts) K Bailey 6-11-10 — N Williamson 99
602 6F0/4-PU SPORTS VIEW 12 (J Warner) R Hodges 5-11-8 — J Frost 80
603 P06/1 INCHCAILLOCH 7 (G) (F Carter) J King 5-11-8 (7ex) — J Osborne 90
604 241330 TOOMUCH TOOSOON 7 (C,D,BF,F,G) (L Kennard) M Pipe 6-11-7 R Dunwoody 94
605 0F-P3 DONTDRESSFORDINNER 14 (K O'Meara) D R Tucker 4-11-2 — D Leahy (3) 87
606 -F4-36 GREEN'S FAIR 18 (BF) (M Ahier) G Ham 4-10-12 — P Holley 94
607 50000/P PEDE GALE 13 (J Wall) J McConnochie 6-10-7 — E Tolhurst (7) —
608 05-06 QUEENS CONTRACTOR 14 (Laurie Butlers & Partners) S Mellor 4-10-2 M Perrett 90
609 40P03-P FERNY BALL 23 (The Champy Group) A Dunn 6-10-1 — Peter Hobbs 93
610 P/P000-P MY BOOKS ARE BEST 16 (M Green) J Long 5-10-0 — W McFarland —
611 0/006-0 EARLY STAR 30 (K Bishop) K Bishop 5-10-0 — R Greene 90
612 050P30- IRISH DOMINION 195 (P Leach) P Leach 4-10-0 — C Maude 91
613 000-6 SKYE DUCK 43 (Dockhaven Stud) R Baker 5-10-0 — B Powell 70

Long handicap: My Books Are Best 9-12, Early Star 9-8, Irish Dominion 9-5, Skye Duck 9-0.

BETTING: 3-1 Inchcailloch, 7-2 Toomuch Toosoon, 4-1 Shellhouse, 6-1 Dontdressfordinner, 10-1 Sports View, 12-1 Queens Contractor, 14-1 others.

1993: FRANKUS 4-10-4 N Mann (11-2) S Mellor 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

SHELLHOUSE 12l 2nd of 11 to Don du Cadran in novice hurdle at Southwell (2m 4f 110yd, good). INCHCAILLOCH beat Storm Falcon 2½l in 21-runner novice handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good), with TOOMUCH TOOSOON UNSEATED rider 4th. TOOMUCH TOOSOON 10¾l 3rd of 12 to Call The Guv'nor in novice hurdle over course and distance (good). DONTDRESSFORDINNER 8l and neck 3rd of 11 to Smart In Sable in novice hurdle over course and distance (good), with QUEENS CONTRACTOR (14lb better off) 11¾l 6th. GREEN'S FAIR 8¼l 3rd of 16 to Billygoat Gruff in novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft) on penultimate start. FERNY BALL 11¾l 3rd of 7 to Tumbled Bride in maiden hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good) final start last season.
Selection: INCHCAILLOCH

☐ Stephen Davies, the champion apprentice, was banned for 21 days yesterday after being held responsible for the fall that left Dean McKeown seriously injured at Lingfield 13 days ago. He was suspended from November 26 to December 16 by the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee, having been found guilty of irresponsible riding for the third time this season. McKeown *suffered a broken wrist and head and neck injuries.* He will be out of action until the new year.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Cheltenham

Going: good to soft (good in places)

12.50 (3m 2f hdle) 1, Betty's Boy (N Williamson, 4-11 fav, *Private Handicapper's top rating*); 2, *The Boiler White* (9-2); 3, Big Arthur (20-1). 7 ran. NR: Better Bythe Glass. 3l, 15l. K Bailey. Tote: £1.30; £1.20, £1.90. DF: £2.60. CSF: £2.62.

1.25 (3m 1f ch) 1, Buckshot (P Hide, 14-1); 2, *Monksforl* (9-2) *Marchwood* 5-4 fav (f). 4 ran. Only two finished. Dist. J Gifford. Tote: £7.30. DF: £12.90. CSF: £55.49.

2.00 (3m 1f ch) 1, Warner For Winners (N Williamson, 5-1); 2, Riverside Boy (8-1); 3, Fleshthecash (6-1). Earth Summit 6-5 fav (f). 6 ran. ½l, 20l. P Hobbs. Tote: £5.00; £2.00, £2.40. DF: £12.10. CSF: £34.25.

2.35 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Relkeel (A Maguire, 4-9 fav); 2, Irish Approach (11-1); 3, Chief's Song (100-30). 4 ran. NR: T V Gold. 1½l, 5l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.50. DF: £3.90. CSF: £5.26.

3.10 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, River Mandate (A Maguire, 9-4 fav); 2, Easy Buck (100-30); 3, Real Progress (14-1). 6 ran. 9l, 1¼l. T Forster. Tote: £2.60; £2.00, £1.80. DF: £4.50. CSF: £9.02.

3.45 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Kytton Castle (R Dunwoody, 100-30); 2, Sendai (11-1); 3, Wings Of Freedom (5-1). *Elegant King* 3-1 fav. 9 ran. NR: Malaia. 1l, nk. R Dickin. Tote: £3.50; £1.60, £3.20, £1.90. DF: £29.70. Trio: £65.80. CSF: £36.25. Tricast: £167.43.

Jackpot: £2,713.80.

Placepot: £387.90. Quadpot: £23.60.

Hexham

Going: heavy

12.45 (3m 1f ch) 1, Barney Rubble (N Doughty, 11-1); 2, The Green Fool (16-1); 3, Jupiter Moon (17-2). Ninfa 5-4 fav. 15 ran. 1¼l, 6l. D Whillans. Tote: £11.20; £3.30, £6.30, £3.30. DF: £72.90. CSF: £167.67.

1.15 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Distant Lady (Richard Guest, 5-2); 2, Brilliant Disguise (16-1), 3, Roly Prior (16-1). Adib 9-4 fav. 13 ran. 11l, 8l. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £3.50; £2.10, £2.20, £4.00. DF: £18.70. CSF: £40.10.

1.45 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Jock's Burn (A Dobbin, 6-5 fav); 2, Port In A Storm (5-4); 3, Sponsor Light (8-1). 4 ran. 12l, 2½l. G Richards. Tote: £3.50. DF: £1.30. CSF: £2.96.

2.15 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Sally Of The Alley (Richard Guest, 5-2 fav); 2, Manwell (11-2); 3, Loving Omen (5-1). 9 ran. 30l, 5l. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £3.50; £1.80, £2.30, £2.00. DF: £13.60. Trio: £38.00. CSF: £16.08. Tricast: £57.40.

2.45 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Houghton (Richard Guest, 7-4 fav); 2, Funny Old Game (7-2), 3, Shull Saor (5-1). 8 ran. NR: *Tartan Tradewinds, The Lorryman.* 8l, 1¾l. J Johnson. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.50, £2.50. DF: £3.70. Trio: £10.80. CSF: £8.81. Tricast: £24.82.

3.15 (2m hdle) 1, Palacegate King (B Harding, 11-2), 2, Scaraben (13-8 fav), 3, Tighter Budget (3-1). 6 ran. 11l, hd. A Whillans. Tote: £8.30; £3.50, £2.00. DF: £5.20. CSF: £14.76.

Placepot: £103.00. Quadpot: £4.00.

Windsor

Going: good to soft

12.30 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Givus A Call (E Murphy, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, House Captain (3-1 jt-fav); 3, St Mellion Fairway (11-2). 14 ran. Hd, 9l. J Gifford. Tote: £4.60; £1.50, £1.50, £1.50. DF: £5.00. CSF: £12.14.

1.00 (2m 5f ch) 1, Oatis Regrets (J Osborne, 5-4 fav; Richard Evans's nap); 2, Bally Clover (7-4); 3, Ushak (20-1). 10 ran. NR: Docs Dilemma, The Brud. 3l, 14l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £2.20; £1.70, £1.60, £3.60. DF: £3.00. CSF: £3.83.

1.30 (2m ch) 1, Driving Force (G McCourt, 100-30); 2, Soleil Dancer (9-2); 3, Rustic Gent (9-1). *Armala 2-1 fav.* 8 ran. 2½l, ½l. Mrs M McCourt. Tote: £3.80; £1.60, £2.30. DF: £7.10. CSF: £16.52.

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Senor El Betrutti (G Bradley, 5-4 fav); 2, Treasure Again (2-1), 3, Tennessee King (50-1). 13 ran. 8l, 6l. C Brooks. Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £1.10, £6.20. DF: £2.10. CSF: £4.01.

2.30 (3m ch) 1, Roxton Hill (G Bradley, 5-2 fav); 2, Staunch Rival (6-1); 3, Man From Mars (11-4). 10 ran. 3l, 11l. C Brooks. Tote: £2.90; £1.50, £1.60, £1.40. DF: £5.90. CSF: £17.34. Tricast: £38.70. Tote Trio Dv £7.80.

3.00 (2m hdle) 1, Dulzura (G Crone, 3-1), 2, Nordansk (11-4 fav); 3, Access Sun (6-1). 6 ran. 3l, 4l. A Jarvis. Tote: £3.50; £1.40, £2.30. DF: £7.40. CSF: £11.75.

3.30 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Island Jewel (M Bosley, 2-1 fav); 2, Secret Four (12-1); 3, Jadidh (12-1). 14 ran. ¾l, 4l. J Bosley. Tote: £2.70; £1.50, £3.40, £4.80. DF: £24.80. Trio: £55.80. CSF: £29.93. Tricast: £247.10.

Placepot: £23.10. Quadpot: £12.10.

☐ Mark Dwyer will ride Commercial Artist in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday. Trained in Ireland by Victor Bowens, Commercial Artist finished fourth in the *Mackeson Gold Cup at Chel*tenham 12 days ago.

NOTTINGHAM

THUNDERER
1.00 Who's The Best. 1.30 Strath Royal. *2.00 TULU* (nap). 2.30 Persian Sword. 3.00 Greek Flutter. 3.30 Much Sought After.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) — SIS

1.00 KEGWORTH SELLING HURDLE
(£1,944: 2m) (15 runners)

1 4 LOFTY DEED 33 W Musson 4-11-7 — G Bradley 55
2 MARKETING MAN 516F Pat Mitchell 4-11-7 — N Mann —
3 00-0 NORTHERN SINGER 21 R Hodges 4-11-7 — I Lawrence —
4 2F- WHO'S THE BEST 17F A Jarvis 4-11-7 — M A Fitzgerald 99
5 P0-P STEPPING 12 J Turner 4-11-2 — W Fry (7) —
6 4 TUSCANIA 50 J Wharton 4-11-2 — B Dalton 70
7 GALAXY RAIN 488F B McMahon 3-10-5 — G Robertson (7) —
8 SHAWN CUDDY 8F J L Harris 3-10-5 — D Gallagher —
9 F5 WADADA 10 S Campion 3-10-5 — A S Smith —
10 0 ARAFEL 34 C James 3-10-0 — S McNeill —
11 66 KIRSTYS LARK 10 J Pickering 3-10-0 — T Eley (3) 58
12 MIGHTY KINGDOM 33F R Emery 3-10-0 — J R Kavanagh —
13 P OFF THE AIR 8F (V) I Campbell 3-10-0 — A Maguire —
14 30 SKELTON PRINCESS 10 R Hollinshead 3-10-0 — S Wynne (3) 53
15 SUNDAY NEWS'N'ECHO 8F W Storey 3-10-0 — J Supple (5) —

7-2 Sunday News'n'echo, 9-2 Who's The Best, 5-1 Tuscania, 8-1 Wadada, 10-1 Lofty Deed, Skelton Princess, Mighty Kingdom, 20-1 others.

1.30 BINGHAM NOVICES CHASE
(£3,050: 2m 5f 110yd) (5)

1 521R DUNDEE PRINCE 12 (S) K Bailey 6-11-8 — G Bradley 99
2 5-13 OLD BRIDGE 19 (BF,G,S) A Turnell 6-11-8 — S McNeill 91
3 31-1 STRATH ROYAL 26 (F,G,S) O Brennan 8-11-8 — M Brennan 95
4 163- GOLDEN SPINNER 212 (G,S) N Henderson 7-10-12 — J R Kavanagh —
5 514- KADI 208 (G,S) D Nicholson 5-10-12 — A Maguire —

7-4 Kadi, 7-2 Strath Royal, 4-1 Golden Spinner, Dundee Prince, 9-2 Old Bridge.

2.00 MERIT THREE-YEAR-OLD NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,704: 2m) (10)

1 11 ANZUM 15 (D,S) D Nicholson 11-5 — A Maguire 99
2 11P JUBILEE ROYALE 19 (D,F) G Hubbard 11-5 — P Verling 77
3 CAPTAIN STARLIGHT 56F R Akehurst 10-12 — G McCourt —
4 2U5 COURT JESTER 9 A Foster 10-12 — J R Kavanagh 73
5 KATINIYD 54F Mrs N Macauley 10-12 — M A Fitzgerald —
6 MINT A MILLION 31F M Blanshard 10-12 — D Gallagher —
7 NAHRI 24F J Mackie 10-12 — M Richards —
8 REGAL RAMBLER 119F L Barratt 10-12 — S Wynne (3) —
9 00 ENNISTYMON 8 D Nicholson 10-7 — R Massey (7) —
10 1 TULU 12 (D,S) Mrs J Ramsden 10-7 — R Garritty 85

6-4 Anzum, 3-1 Tulu, 4-1 Captain Starlight, 6-1 Jubilee Royale, 8-1 Court Jester, 12-1 Katiniyd, 14-1 others.

2.30 WOLLATON HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,106: 2m 5f 110yd) (6)

1 2/6- GRANVILLEWATERFORD 377 (G) S Sherwood 9-12-0 — G Hogan (5) —
2 250- PERSIAN SWORD 201 (C,S) D Nicholson 8-10-10 A Maguire 99
3 13-P BUCKS SURPRISE 27 (G) J Mackie 6-10-10 — M A Fitzgerald 90
4 613- CAPITAL PUNISHMENT 196 (F,G) Miss M Milligan 8-10-8 — Mr M Armytage 87
5 20-2 SUPPOSIN 45 (S) Mrs S Smith 6-10-1 — Richard Guest 95
6 0365 MO ICHI DO 22 (D,F,G,S) Miss S Wilton 8-10-0 — D Gallagher 96

5-2 Persian Sword, 11-4 Supposin, 9-2 Capital Punishment, 5-1 Bucks Surprise, 6-1 Granvillewaterford, 7-1 Mo Ichi Do.

3.00 BULWELL HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,793: 2m) (5)

1 23-2 GREEK FLUTTER 9 (D,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-11-10 — A Maguire 98
2 -111 SOCIETY GUEST 12 (D,F,G,S) A Turnell 8-11-7 — L Harvey 92
3 5F-5 CIRCULATION 20 (D,G,S) D McCain 8-10-4 — D Gallagher 99
4 143- MENABHI 369 (G,S) J Mackie 7-10-3 — M A Fitzgerald 86
5 43P4 FAVOURED VICTOR 12 (G,S) K Morgan 7-10-0 — A S Smith 81

Evens Society Guest, 5-2 Greek Flutter, 4-1 Menabhi, 8-1 Circulation, 10-1 Favoured Victor

3.30 RAINWORTH NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,303: 2m 5f 110yd) (11)

1 3-11 BILLYGOAT GRUFF 14 (S) D Nicholson 5-11-12 — A Maguire 99
2 60/ CYRANO'S LAD 611 G Bravery 5-10-12 — M Hourigan —
3 4RUR DARU 5 (V) G Fierro 5-10-12 — S Lycett (7) —
4 0-0 GAMBLES LANE 29 Mrs H Parrott 4-10-12 — J R Kavanagh —
5 4 JACK RUSSELL 19 N Henderson 5-10-12 — M A Fitzgerald —
6 35-6 MR BUSKER 47 (BF) S Sherwood 5-10-12 — M Richards —
7 MUCH SOUGHT AFTER 82F N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 — D Bridgwater —
8 0/ NOTHING DOING 660 W Musson 5-10-12 — G Bradley —
9 501- RIVER LEVEN 241 (S) D Gandolfo 5-10-12 — D Meade —
10 VANDALUS G Hubbard 6-10-12 — P Verling —
11 6-4P WAYWARD SAILOR 50 (B,G) J Spearing 6-10-12 — S McNeill —

2-1 Billygoat Gruff, 4-1 River Leven, 9-2 Much Sought After, 6-1 Jack Russell, 8-1 Daru, 10-1 Mr Busker, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Henderson, 8 winners from 26 runners, 30.8%; J Mackie, 7 from 34, 20.6%; J Wharton, 3 from 16, 18.8%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 9 from 50, 18.0%; D Nicholson, 8 from 46, 17.4%; O Brennan, 6 from 52, 11.5%.

JOCKEYS: G McCourt, 15 winners from 60 rides, 25.0%; Richard Guest, 4 from 22, 18.2%; A Maguire, 6 from 38, 15.8%; T Eley, 5 from 36, 13.9%; M Brennan, 4 from 35, 11.4%; M A Fitzgerald, 3 from 27, 11.1%.

Blinkered first time

CARLISLE: 12.20 Clan Reel, White Creek. 2.50 Persuasius. NOTTINGHAM: 1.00 Off The Air. 3.30 Daru. TAUNTON: 2.10 *Chapel Hill, Reve En Rose. 3.10 Scorpion Bay.*

CARLISLE

THUNDERER
12.20 Cumbrian Rhapsody. 12.50 Joliver. 1.20 *Northern Squire. 1.50 Great Max.* 2.20 Seon. 2.50 Express Gift. 3.20 Trump.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

12.20 BLACKTHORN CIDERMASTER NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £1,960: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

1 -053 BRAMBLES WAY 6 W Reed 5-11-0 — Mr S Swiers
2 P CELTIC RISING 20 Mrs S Austin 4-11-0 — R Marley
3 /0-P CLAN REEL 20 (B) R Goldie 5-11-0 — N Smith
4 P LACONIC HENRY 5 L Lungo 4-11-0 — T Reed (5)
5 0 TOP CEES 9 Mrs J Ramsden 4-11-0 — R Hodge
6 1-10 VALLEY GARDEN 29 (BF,G,S) J J O'Neill 4-11-0 — M Dwyer
7 606 WHITE CREEK 13 (B) M Barnes 4-11-0 — G Cahill (7)
8 /03 AIDE MEMOIRE 17 Mrs B Broad 5-10-9 — K Johnson
9 CUMBRIAN RHAPSODY 19F M H Easterby 4-10-9 — L Wyer
10 0-P GIDEONSCLEUCH 14 B Mactaggart 5-10-9 — B Storey
11 JENDORCET 423F C Fairhurst 4-10-9 — C Hawkins
12 4- REGAL JEST 184 B Murray 4-10-9 — D Byrne
13 355- THE WHIRLIE WEEVIL 265 G Richards 5-10-9 — M Moloney

5-2 The Whirlie Weevil, 7-2 Cumbrian Rhapsody, 6-1 Aide Memoire, Top Cees, 10-1 White Creek, Brambles Way, 12-1 others.

12.50 COURVOISIER CLASSIC NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,137: 2m 4f 110yd) (13)

1 3-3 BROADWATER BOY 45 M Hammond 6-11-2 — Mr C Bonner (5)
2 0 CRY WILD 17 L Lungo 4-11-2 — F Perratt (5)
3 1-0 DON'T GEORGE 13 (F) Miss M Milligan 5-11-2 — J Callaghan
4 25/6 DORLIN CASTLE 8 L Lungo 6-11-2 — T Reed
5 5-3 JOLIVER 43 G Richards 6-11-2 — A Dobbin
6 0-0 KILMESSAN JUNCTION 17 C Thornton 5-11-2 — N Doughty
7 20-0 LORD DORCET 34 J Charlton 4-11-2 — P Niven
8 06/0 LORD TOM 17 J Hellens 6-11-2 — A Lamach (3)
9 0 PIMS AVENUE 12 Mrs A Swinbank 4-11-2 — T Jenks (3)
10 56-0 STORMY CORAL 17 C Parker 4-11-2 — B Storey
11 0-00 BOLANEY GIRL 8 J J O'Neill 5-10-11 — A Roche (3)
12 421- ICELANDIC POPPY 233P (G) J Brockbank 6-10-11 — Mr R Hale
13 0-P TWICE WEEKLY 17 F Jestin 5-10-11 — Miss Sue Nichol (7)

4-5 Joliver, 7-1 Broadwater Boy, 8-1 Dorlin Castle, 12-1 Icelandic Poppy, 14-1 Don't George, Bolaney Girl, 16-1 others.

1.20 JENNINGS CUMBERLAND ALE NOVICES CHASE (£3,553: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 -1F4 NORTHERN SQUIRE 12 (CD,G,S) J Jefferson 6-11-12 M Dwyer
2 -1P0 EMERALD VENTURE 16 (F,S) T Caldwell 7-11-6 — Pat Caldwell
3 P GAMBLER'S GREEN 50 B Rothwell 9-11-6 — N Doughty
4 141/ PENNINE PRIDE 586P (G,S) M Hammond 7-11-6 — P Niven
5 00-0 SHEELIN LAD 8 L Lungo 6-11-6 — T Reed
6 5-06 SWEET CALLERNISH 8 J Johnson 5-11-6 — Mr N Wilson
7 -F63 THE PATTERS MAGIC 17 B Mactaggart 7-11-6 — F Perratt (5)
8 01-P WHO SIR 7 (S) J J O'Neill 8-11-6 — A Roche (3)
9 V43- EASTER OATS 208 (S) R Goldie 7-11-1 — K Johnson
10 00/F NUN ON THE RUN 13 J Oliver 8-11-1 — M Moloney
11 F-04 SKI LADY 22 J Charlton 6-11-1 — B Storey

7-2 Northern Squire, 4-1 Pennine Pride, 9-2 Easter Oats, 6-1 The Patters Magic, 8-1 Sweet Callernish, 10-1 Nun On The Run, 12-1 others.

1.50 GORDONS GIN HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,385: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1 210- FURRY BABY 212 (G,S) M Avison 7-11-10 — E Callaghan (7)
2 12-2 GREAT MAX 13 (D,S) C Parker 5-11-7 — B Storey
3 01-0 TALL MEASURE 13 (D,F) D Swindlehurst 8-11-5 — Mr D Swindlehurst
4 015- TROY BOY 35F (C,S) G Moore 4-10-6 — J Callaghan
5 6RU4 HEATHVIEW 6 (F,G) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-10-4 — M Dwyer
6 P-22 MOONSHINE DANCER 8 (BF,F) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-2 — G Lee (5)
7 -PP6 SHELTON ABBEY 19 (B,F,G,S) J Wade 8-10-0 — D Ryan (7)

5-4 Moonshine Dancer, 7-2 Great Max, 5-1 Heathview, 7-1 others.

2.20 JENNINGS BITTER HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,074: 2m) (6)

1 531P TERRIBLE GEL 6 (D,BF,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-12-0 — P Niven
2 13-4 SEON 17 (D,F,G,S) C Parker 8-11-12 — B Storey
3 1122 BELDINE 13 (D,BF,F,G,S) P Monteith 9-11-9 — T Jenks (3)
4 P-P4 POSITIVE ACTION 8 (D,F,G,S) M Barnes 8-11-7 — F Perratt (5)
5 118- PRECIPICE RUN 215 (C,D,G,S) G Richards 9-11-5 — A Dobbin
6 23-5 KAMBALDA RAMBLER 17 (CD,S) C Parker 10-11-5 — Mr D Parker (5)

7-4 Terrible Gel, 5-2 Beldine, 9-2 Precipice Run, 6-1 Seon, 7-1 Kambalda Rambler, 12-1 Positive Action.

2.50 BLACKTHORN CIDERMASTER NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £1,960: 2m 1f) (13)

1 1 EXPRESS GIFT 22 (G) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-7 — P Niven
2 060- BAROFF 278 Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-0 — M Dwyer
3 F-00 MAJOR JACK 14 P Monteith 4-11-0 — A Dobbin
4 34- MONYMOSS 198 M Hammond 5-11-0 — D Bentley (3)
5 0/ PERSUASIUS 82F (V) W Barker 6-11-0 — G Harker
6 ROCHARISARE T Etherington 5-11-0 — A Thornton
7 40-4 SCRABO VIEW 20 P Beaumont 6-11-0 — Mrs A Farrell
8 1-22 SPARKY GAYLE 13 (G) C Parker 4-11-0 — B Storey
9 TAPIS ROUGE 71F T Caldwell 5-11-0 — Pat Caldwell
10 44-6 CORNFLAKE 13 Denys Smith 4-10-9 — L Wyer
11 0 DARK MOUNTAIN 12 L Lungo 4-10-9 — T Reed
12 260/ ENKINDLE 213F B Murray 7-10-9 — W Dwan
13 P-0 ROSINA MAE 9 Mrs J Ramsden 5-10-9 — D Thomas (7)

6-4 Express Gift, 3-1 Sparky Gayle, 6-1 Scrabo View, 10-1 others.

3.20 MURPHY'S IRISH STOUT AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,075: 3m 110yd) (6)

1 64-0 BELLS HILL LAD 22 (S) J Barclay 7-11-10 — C Bonner (5)
2 35-5 CLASSIC STATEMENT 19 (V,D,F,S) J Hellens 8-11-7 — N Wilson (5)
3 UF/P ANOTHER DYER 755 (S) L Lungo 10-11-5 — S Swiers
4 5-23 TRUMP 6 (C,G) C Parker 5-11-5 — D Parker (5)
5 00-4 ARMASHOCKER 34 (S) Bob Jones 6-10-4 — P Close (7)
6 P00- LA MOLINILLA 180 (F) Mrs K Lamb 11-10-0 — Miss S Lamb (7)

5-4 Classic Statement, 9-4 Trump, 6-1 Bells Hill Lad, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Jefferson, 12 winners from 36 runners, 33.3%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 5 from 18, 27.8%; C Thornton, 3 from 11, 27.3%; Mrs M Reveley, 15 from 57, 26.3%; M H Easterby, 4 from 19, 21.1%; G M Moore, 14 from 68, 20.6%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 36 winners from 98 rides, 26.5%; N Bentley, 5 from 21, 23.8%; M Dwyer, 17 from 75, 22.7%; L Wyer, 8 from 38, 21.1%; N Doughty, 21 from 100, 21.0%; A Thornton, 3 from 18, 16.7%.

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Mills fined £350 over Greenwich Again

TERRY Mills, the Epsom trainer, remained "mystified" over a doping incident that cost him £350 and led to the disqualification of his Folkestone winner, Greenwich Again, at Portman Square yesterday.

He was fined by the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee and the Radio Kent Selling Stakes awarded to Samana Cay after traces of a banned substance used to stop racehorses was found in a post-race urine sample.

Mills was found guilty of breaking the rules governing positive tests even though he denied that the drug, a metabolite of acepromazine, had been administered at his yard.

Despite exhaustive efforts by *the trainer* and Jockey Club investigators, now involved in another doping case, involving Bo Knows Nigel (trained at that time by Geoff Lewis), which also occurred at Folkestone in August, the source of the substance has not been found.

Gregory follows Little out of Leicester

Wednesday rebuff Swindon after Waddle approach

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SWINDON Town have failed in their attempt to bring Chris Waddle to the County Ground as manager of the Wiltshire club. Swindon, who dismissed John Gorman on Monday, approached Sheffield Wednesday for permission to talk with the former England winger but were rejected by the FA Carling Premiership club.

Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager, said yesterday: "I have spoken to Chris, who is under contract for another 18 months. I would like him to stay and that is what he wants.

"He has worked very hard to get fit again after his injury and is looking no further ahead than playing again and getting back into our side. He has put in a lot of effort after being out for almost a year and is enthusiastic about continuing to play."

Waddle has, nevertheless, indicated an interest in moving into management when his playing career, which has included spells at Newcastle United, Tottenham Hotspur and Marseilles, has ended.

With Waddle unavailable, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division club may now concentrate on talking to either Gary Mabbutt, the Tottenham defender, or perhaps Osvaldo Ardiles, the former Tottenham manager, who enjoyed a successful spell in charge of Swindon earlier in his career.

The intrigue surrounding Leicester City's management crisis, after the resignation of Brian Little on Tuesday, deepened yesterday when John Gregory, the club's coach, also walked out, just hours before the Premiership match against Arsenal at Filbert Street last night.

Gregory is thought to have been upset at not being asked to take charge for the Arsenal game. Gregory, a former Aston Villa, Derby and England player who went on to become manager at Portsmouth, was appointed by Little in June 1991.

Little is likely to be approached to become manager of Aston Villa, after the dismissal of Ron Atkinson nearly two weeks ago. Little, a former Villa player, who had more than two years of his contract to run at Filbert Street, has been strongly linked with his old club since Atkinson's dismissal.

If Little is appointed at Villa, he is almost certain to ask Allan Evans, his assistant at Leicester and at present the club's caretaker manager, and Gregory to join him.

Tony Daley, Wolverhampton Wanderers' record £1.3 million signing from Villa, has been ruled out for the rest of the season. A second opinion on the former England winger's latest knee injury has diagnosed cruciate ligament damage, which will require a rebuilding operation and will sideline him until at least the start of next season.

Graham Taylor, the Wolverhampton manager, said: "It is obviously a big blow to him and to us, but if everything goes well, he should still have a few good years in him." Daley, 27, has played only 14 minutes of first-team football since moving in the summer.

The Nottingham Forest manager, Frank Clark, will not punish Stan Collymore, the club's centre forward, after a training ground incident involving Collymore and another player, Alf Inge Haland. Collymore reportedly struck the Norwegian international, but Clark said: "I will not be fining Stan. He has apologised to Alf and admitted he was in the wrong. They have shaken hands and that is the end of the matter."

Matt Joseph, the Cambridge United defender, has been cleared by police in Brentford of inciting a crowd invasion at the end of his side's 2-1 FA Cup replay victory at Griffin Park on Tuesday night. Police originally said they were reporting him to the Football Association for allegedly making gestures to the home supporters that sparked the trouble, but the Cambridge manager, Gary Johnson, was told yesterday that no action would be taken. Joseph had to be rescued by stewards and other players when about 40 spectators surged on to the pitch at the end of the match.



Waddle is looking forward to returning to the Sheffield Wednesday side

Lamptey loses first chance to impress

AN INTERNATIONAL tournament in South Africa will prevent Nii Lamptey, the Aston Villa forward, from making an early impression on his new manager. The £1.3 million summer signing from Anderlecht has been called up by Ghana and so will miss Villa's next three matches — games against Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester City in the FA Carling Premiership and a Coca-Cola Cup tie with Crystal Palace.

Lamptey had asked to be left out of the Ghana side earlier in the season while he tried to establish himself at Villa Park, but the request went unheeded.

Meanwhile, Steve Staunton, the Aston Villa full back, has been ruled out of the televised game at home to Sheffield Wednesday on Sunday. The Republic of Ireland international yesterday had an exploratory operation to determine the extent of damage to a tendon in his left knee.

Jim Barron, the caretaker manager at Villa, said: "We are waiting to see whether Steve will need an operation or whether the problem will heal naturally."

Manchester City have decided not to keep Simon Tracey, the goalkeeper signed on loan from Sheffield United. Tracey is to return to Bramall Lane after making three emergency appearances when City had Tony Coton and Martyn Margetson injured and Andy Dibble suspended.

Brian Horton, the Manchester City manager, yesterday denied rumours that Coton's career could be at an end. "All the talk that his career was over is total rubbish," he said. "Tony has not got a disc problem, it is a torn muscle in his back and he could be back in light training in five to six weeks' time."

The Maine Road directors will tomorrow consider a transfer request from Steve McMahon. The former Everton, Liverpool and Aston Villa player is hoping for a free transfer to enable him to move into a player-coaching job.

Walking tall as giant-killer

CLIVE Walker is an example of the adage "old footballers never fade away, they just pop up again in first-round FA Cup ties". The former Chelsea, Sunderland, Queens Park Rangers, Fulham and Brighton winger made headlines playing for non-league Woking in their giant-killing of the third division club, Barnet, on Tuesday.

The first game between the sides at Barnet ended 4-4, when the still fleet-footed Walker, 37, scored as his side went into a 3-0 lead only to let it slip. But the Vauxhall Conference side completed the job at its Kingfield ground, winning 1-0, with a goal from Mark Tucker.

Geoff Chapple, the Woking manager, said that such is Walker's importance to the team, that they kept an Achilles tendon injury secret and patched up their front man to enable him to play.

Chapple, who led Woking in their 1991 Cup run, in which they reached the fourth round before losing to Everton at Goodison Park, said yesterday: "Clive didn't have that good a game because he was carrying the injury, but it was important we had him out there. He was superb in the first game. He gives us an extra dimension."

Walker, who works as an auctioneer, ended his professional days with Brighton at the end of the 1992-93 season, after 484 League appearances and 108 goals, including a League Cup final appearance with Sunderland in 1985.

He has been a big hit at Woking since joining them last year. And now, with the reward for beating Barnet an away tie at Marlow, of the Diadora League, a place in the third round against one of the big teams beckons.

Floodlit cricket achieves advance in status

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE first first-class cricket match to be played under floodlights starts today at the WACA ground in Perth when Western Australia and Queensland meet in the Sheffield Shield.

Day-night limited-overs games have become commonplace but this will be the first occasion on which a four-day match has been played under artificial light.

The experiment has been delayed by difficulties in finding a suitable ball. Because a satisfactory white dye has yet to be developed, the white ball used in limited-overs contests is painted, a finish that lasts for an innings of 50 overs but is not durable enough for 85, the requirement for the first-class game.

Tony Mann, the cricket manager for Western Australia, said the balls to be used were made from dyed yellow leather. "They are the same as the normal red ones, apart from the colour," he said.

"We have tried them out in our one-day competitions and in a match between Western Australia and Lancashire and have found them to be completely satisfactory."

Two other Shield games later in the season will be played on a day-night basis to enable the Australian Cricket Board to obtain the views of all the sides in the competition.

New South Wales will meet Tasmania in Sydney and Victoria will play South Australia in Melbourne.

Mann said he believed the game today could herald the start of an exciting era for the game. "It has huge potential to overcome dwindling public sentiment about Shield cricket," he said. "We are hoping the new hours of play will bring the crowds back."

Perth, with its hot summer days and balmy nights, certainly has the ideal climate for cricket under the stars.

This latest experiment comes four weeks after Western Australia played the England touring side in the first one-day game divided into quarters.

☐ Daniel Marsh, the captain of the Australian Cricket Academy, which is run by his father, Rodney, the former Test match wicketkeeper, hit a century from 112 balls against the touring Zimbabwe team in Adelaide yesterday. The Academy made 271 for seven declared on the first day of the three-day match. Zimbabwe replying with 47 for three.

FIA decides to take no action after crash inquiry

BY OLIVER HOLT

THE International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) brought the curtain down on a troubled Formula One season yesterday when it announced it would not call either Michael Schumacher or Damon Hill to its headquarters in Paris to explain their collision during the Australian Grand Prix. The decision belatedly confirms Schumacher as world champion.

If the statement was meant to dispel the air of farce that has hovered over the investigation into the crash or to defuse suggestions that the inquiry was a half-baked attempt to worry the young German and his Benetton team, it failed conspicuously.

"We are extremely pleased about the statement of the FIA," the team said in a statement. "The decision confirms our conviction that Michael has won this hotlycontested world championship fair and square."

Hill, who was deprived of almost certain victory and the world championship by the accident, had refused all along to criticise Schumacher for his part in the crash on the 36th lap of the race. If he was the wronged party, he and his Williams team appeared to realise immediately that they could not prove it and acted with according dignity.

But the FIA and its president, Max Mosley, would not let the matter drop. They attempted to wreath yesterday's climb-down with a rider about the possibility of a run-off if another championship was called into question by a collision and succeeded only in heaping further ridicule upon themselves.

The statement said there was "insufficient evidence to justify summoning" Schumacher or Hill to Paris and continued: "The matter is therefore closed and no further action will be taken. But to avoid a future world championship being decided by a collision, the FIA will study the possibility of empowering the stewards to allow the drivers involved to continue the race in spare cars or hold a run-off immediately after the race."

Both suggestions sound attractive in theory but it is hard to see how they would be workable in practice. Still, by next season the "possibility" will probably have been studied and then allowed to disappear quietly whence it came.

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Lindsay criticises system

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE Australians have moved to France, but the problems left in their wake are manifest, and emphasis is being placed on junior rugby league development, which has been a source more of strife than solutions for many years.

It has been a battleground between the sport's two governing bodies for more than two decades. Although it has been patched up in recent times, another battle seems to be looming, after comments by Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive of the Rugby Football League, about ending the British Amateur Rugby League Association's (Barla) control of youth rugby.

"Barla are just not delivering junior players in the abundance and quality we need to take on the Australians," he said. "The amateur and professional games have to come together.

"I am not trying to denegrate Barla, but I want to help finance and work out coaching paths. We don't have a prayer at the moment. It's possible that today's fans may never see us beat Australia unless we do something about our development.

"The Aussies had the wisdom and vision to sort out the job. We've not. A quick fix won't make us 20 points better than them in 12 months. We need a scheme that will pay dividends in five years or we're doomed."

This can only deepen existing suspicions between the two bodies, but Lindsay is correct in his assertion that, without a single, committed approach to development, there is little chance of the gap with Australia being closed.

Domestically, a more pressing gap is that between Wigan and an increasing number of also-rans. Bradford Northern, who were pipped to the Stones Bitter Championship on points' difference with Warrington last season, are into free fall after a 32-12 defeat on Tuesday at Oldham, their fourth, described as "pathetic" by Chris Caisley, the club chairman.

Oldham were something of a revelation, moving into eighth place in the first division. A fourth win underlined the progress being achieved by Andy Goodway, the former Great Britain forward, who has blended a fluent and industrious side on slim resources in his first senior coaching appointment.

Alan Hunte, the St Helens and Great Britain back, has received confirmation that he will be out for four weeks after damaging knee ligaments in the defeat by Australia on Sunday.

Hide decides to gamble

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

HERBIE Hide, the Norwich heavyweight, yesterday turned down an offer of £2 million to defend his World Boxing Organisation title against Riddick Bowe in Las Vegas in February or March.

Barry Hearn, Hide's promoter, said the offer had been made by Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, a week ago, and after "considering all the ins and outs", Hide had decided to reject it in the hope of getting a better one by going to purse bids, as the bout is a mandatory one. He is also hoping to secure home advantage.

Hide lifted the title by knocking out Michael Bentt at Millwall Football Ground last March. "We always respect the wishes of our fighters," Hearn said. "If Herbie wants to go to purse offers, we will go along with that."

If the bout, which has the backing of Home Box Office, came to Britain, it would mean an outdoor venue or the biggest indoor arena available, as Bowe's drawing power, even as a former champion, is first-rate.

Because of Bowe's tendency to put on weight between contests as a result of overeating (his new house in Fort Washington, Maryland, has three kitchens, one of them in his bedroom), the bout with Hide would be a welcome one.

Newman and Bowe's octogenarian trainer, Eddie Futch, intend to keep the former champion in shape by keeping him busy. Bowe has a bout with Larry Donald on December 3 in Las Vegas.

Richie Woodhall, from Telford, the Commonwealth middleweight champion, will defend his title against Art Serwano, 30, a California-based Ugandan, at Wolverhampton on November 30 after the withdrawal of Chris Pyatt from the challenge because of influenza.

Serwano, who is advised by Cornelius Boza-Edwards, the former world super-featherweight champion, has won 19 of his 26 bouts.

"I was really looking forward to the Pyatt fight," Woodhall said, "but anyone like Serwano who takes a contest like this at short notice in the opponent's backyard has to be respected. I'm not taking him lightly."

He has also been nominated to meet Silvio Branco for the European title early in 1995. Woodhall has been given his chance because Branco's fellow countryman, Agostino Cardamone, has given up the European Boxing Union title to meet Julian Jackson for the vacant World Boxing Council championship.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Second division: Bournemouth 2 Exeter City 4

Tuesday's results

FA CUP: First round: Mansfield 3 Northwich 1. First-round replays: Brentford 1 Cambridge Utd 2, Bury 1 Bishop Auckland 1 (aet: Bury won 4-2 on pens), Colchester 7 Yeading 1; Fulham 5 Ashford Town 3 (aet), Hitchin 4 Hereford 2, Rotherham 3 York 0, Scarborough 2 Chesterfield 0; Scunthorpe 3 Bradford 2 (aet); Woking 1 Barnet 0

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: St Johnstone 4 Airdrie 0. Second division: Greenock Morton 1 Stirling 1.

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Third-round replay: Cardiff City 2 Ebbw Vale 0

BUDWEISER CUP: Semi-finals: Bangor 1 Portadown 3; Distillery 1 Ballyclare 0.

FA VASE: Second-round replays: West Midlands Police 1 Tower Hamlets 0; Malden Vale 1 Horsham 3; Pickering Town 3 Whickham 2.

KONICA LEAGUE CUP: First round, second leg: Ton Pentre 3 Caersws 2 (Ton Pentre win 6-5 on agg)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City 1 Tottenham Hotspur 1; Queens Park Rangers 2 Millwall 0; Watford 5 Bristol Rovers 1, West Ham United 3 Charlton Athletic 0

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Coventry 0 Sheffield United 2, Everton 1 Blackburn 0; Sunderland 1 Notts County 0.

DIADORA LEAGUE: First division: Staines Town 1 Barking 2; Wembley 0 Maidenhead Utd 5. Second division: Hungerford Town 0 Hemel Hempstead 3; Metropolitan Police 1 Barton Rovers 3. Third division: Southall 1 Northwood 1 League Cup: Second round: Witham 0 Enfield 5 Carlsberg Cup: Second round: Berkhamsted Town 1 Bishop's Stortford 1, Boreham Wood 3 Purfleet 1; Herndon 5 Aylesbury Utd 1, Kingstonian 1 Sutton United 3, St Albans City 1 Ruislip Manor 1, Wokingham Town 1 Basingstoke Town 4

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss Town 9 Chatteris Town 0, Felixstowe Town 2 Haverhill Rovers 1. First division: Bury Town Res. 2 Gorleston 4, Swaffham Town 4 Long Sutton Athletic 1; Thetford Town 1 Norwich United 1.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Mangotsfield Utd 1 Elmore 3

FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Oldham 3 Bury 0. Second round: Peterborough 0 Everton 1, Leyton Orient 0 Chelsea 0; Arsenal 5 Brighton 0

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Inter-city challenge: Rotherham 2 Doncaster 3

ATHLETICS

CHIBA, Japan: International relay marathon: Men: 1, Ethiopia 2hr 29sec; 2, Japan 2:00:57. 3, Great Britain 2:01:27. Women: 1, Japan 2:15:31. 2, Russia 2:16:12. 3, Kenya 2:19:41; 12, Great Britain 2:23:59.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP: Semi-final series: Group B: Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 75 Bologna (It) 76.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Milwaukee 116 Boston 94; Atlanta 102 Philadelphia 99; Cleveland 112 Minnesota 79; Charlotte 102 Golden State 98; Portland 102 Houston 94, Seattle 104 New Jersey 97; Chicago 105 LA Clippers 93

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Aadelaide (first day of three) Australian Institute of Sport Cricket Academy 271-7 dec (D Marsh 100 not out); Zimbabweans 46-3.

HOCKEY

SYDNEY: World Cup: Pool A: Australia 2 Belorussia 0, England 0 Spain 0, Pakistan 3 Argentina 0. Pool B: Germany 1 South Africa 1.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Peel, Hunt Public School old boys doubles championship: Semi-final: Radley (J Male and L Danby) bt Harrow I (C Hue Williams and J Prenn) 6-15, 15-8, 15-3, 15-8, 12-15, 6-15, 15-7

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British Open championship: (GB unless stated): L Deuchar (Aus) bt C Bray, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; W Davies (Aus) bt M Devine 6-5, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Oldham 32 Bradford Northern 12. Second division Batley 4 Rvedale York 2.

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: First-round draw: Askam v Moorends, Barrow Island v Norland, Beverley v Chequerfield; Blackbrook v West Bowling; Blackpool v Fryston; Chorley v Simms Cross; Dewsbury Celtic v Thatto Heath; Dudley Hill v Cardiff Institute of Higher Education; East Leeds v Wath Brow Hornets; Eastmoor v Upton and Frickley; Egremont v New Earswick All Blacks; Greetland AR v Crosfields; Hemel Hempstead v Leeds Metropolitan University; Heworth v Littleborough; Leigh East v Bisons; Leigh MW v Wigan St Judes; Lock Lane v Orrell St James; Mayfield v Park Amateurs; Milford v Thornhill; Milom v Northampton; Moldgreen v Embassy; Nottingham v Normanton, Oldham St Annes v Kells, Oulton v Overdale; Redhill v Ellenborough, Saddleworth v Skirlaugh; Shaw Cross v Fulham Travellers; Wakney C v Hensingham; West Hull v South London; Wigan St Pats v Worth Village; Woolston v Eccles; York Acorn v Crown Malet.

☐ Ties to be played on Dec 10 and 11.

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Welsh Districts Under-21 22 Romania Under-21 3 at Haverfordwest; Cambridge University 34 M R Steele-Bodger's XV 26.

TOUR MATCHES: Aberavon 7 South African Development XV 23; Bristol 21 Canterbury (NZ) 27; Llanelli 23 South African Police 22; Newport 48 Pirates (SA) 8; Pontypridd 3 South Africa XV 9.

CLUB MATCHES: Bridgend 34 Swansea 0; Narberth 28 Newcastle Emlyn 3; South Wales Police 18 Treorchy 15.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Epsom 38 King's, Canterbury 14, Worth 25 Eastbourne 15.

TENNIS

JAKARTA: Men's doubles tournament: Group B: D Adam (Aus) A Olhovskiy (Russ) bt B Black (Zim) J Stark (US) 6-7, 6-3, 7-6; T Woodbridge (Aus) M Woodforde (Aus) bt T Nijssen (Hol) C Suk (Cz) 6-2, 6-4; J Eltingh (Holl) P Haarhuis (Holl) bt S Casal (Sp) E Sanchez (Sp) 6-3, 7-5.

WEIGHTLIFTING

ISTANBUL: World championships: Men: 76kg: 1, P Lara (Cuba) (snatch: 162.5kg, jerk 202.5kg) 365kg; 2, I Steinhofel (Ger) (165kg, 197.5kg) 362.5kg; 3, R Savchenko (Ukr) (160kg, 200kg) 360kg. Women: 64kg: 1, Li Hongyun (China) (105kg, 130kg) 235kg; 2, Kuo Su-fen (Taiwan) (90kg, 115kg) 205kg; 3, E Marius (Hun) (92.5kg, 105kg) 197.5kg. 70 kg: 1, Zhou Meihong (China) (95.0, 127.5) 222.5; 2, Qu Lihua (China) (97.5, 122.5) 220.0; 3, W Puncharksm (Thai) (95.0, 115.0) 210.0.

Haiti keep home tie

CANADA'S Davis Cup team will play in Haiti in February, having received assurances on safety from the International Tennis Federation (ITF), the sport's governing body.

Canada initially baulked at playing there when Haiti won the right to stage the group two match on the toss of a coin in October. President Aristide has since returned from exile and sanctions against the country have been lifted.

"It will be the first major event in Haiti since Aristide returned to power," Robert Bettauer, the director of player development for Tennis Canada, said. "I'm sure they'll make great pains to make sure it comes off as a great success."

Thomas Hallberg, the ITF's director of men's tennis and Davis Cup competition, visited Haiti this month and his report on conditions there was forwarded to the Canadians.

"All the appropriate steps have been taken and I'm confident we will be playing in a safe environment," Bettauer said.

Michael Chang, of the United States, will use the Colonial Mutual Classic exhibition tournament to prepare for the Australian Open championship, giving the event a field that includes five of the top ten players in the world.

Chang's entry in the eight-man exhibition was confirmed yesterday by the tournament director, Colin Stubs. He joins the Wimbledon champion, Pete Sampras, Stefan Edberg, Michael Stich and Boris Becker, as well as the Australians, Jason Stoltenberg and Wally Masur. One place in the draw has still to be confirmed.

The Colonial Mutual Classic will be played in mid-January, in the week preceding the Australian Open, on hard courts at Kooyong, the former Open venue until it was moved to the nearby National Tennis Centre at Flinders Park.

Cambridge achieve honour in defeat

Cambridge University . 34
M R Steele-Bodger's XV 39

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

WITH only one match to come before the annual encounter with Oxford next month (against Leicester on Saturday), Cambridge University have struck an adverse vein of form. Yesterday was their fourth defeat in succession but, given that the University match so frequently defies prediction, they will not be too downcast.

Micky Steele-Bodger assembled an experienced team with seven past or present Wasps at its core and, once it had gathered some semblance of order, it gave Cambridge a far sterner examination than that offered by Major Stanley's XV to Oxford a week earlier. That match aggregate of 138 points derived from something akin to basketball; at Grange Road rugby's more traditional skills were on display and the game benefited.

Injuries have plagued the Light Blues all term and will deprive them — and Canada, who play England on December 10 — of their one international player at Twickenham: Chris Tynan, last year's scrum half, faces further tests on a prolapsed disc in his neck in Vancouver next month and faces a long absence. On the credit side, Matt McCarthy, the little Neath stand-off half, has returned to add zest to their back division and they have uncovered a further weapon for their armoury.

Nick Walne was a member of the Welsh Schools team that defeated the Australians on their own turf last summer and emerged, at wing rather than his school position of centre, last week with a try-scoring performance against Wasps.

Yesterday he added two further tries in Cambridge's defeat by three goals, two tries, and a penalty goal to two goals and five tries. Though the University match teams will not be confirmed until Monday, it will be a genuine pleasure to see a freshman undergraduate in the Cambridge ranks.

Given the slim difference at the finish, Cambridge will regret missing all their early opportunities. Rollitt strolled over unopposed from the tail of a lineout and they were inches away from three further tries before Walne was worked over, from a series of tapped penalties, for his first score.

But by the interval the guest XV were level at 17-17 and waxing stronger by the second. Guy Manson-Bishop, the Natal under-21 player wintering with Newport, was at the heart of most of their productive work and three tries in the third quarter suggested a convincing victory was in the offing.

But Cottrell, the New Zealander, kept Cambridge in touch and their rally which brought tries for the perspiring Mooney and for Walne from Dalwood's deft pass, brought honour in defeat. They will remember, of course, that the place kicking of Gareth Rees is likely to serve Oxford better than Chris John, who missed five conversions.

SCORERS: Cambridge University: Tries: Walne (2), Rollitt, Cottrell, Mooney. Conversions: McCarthy (3). Penalty goal: McCarthy. Steele-Bodger's XV: Tries: Lozowski (2), John, Clough, White, Alston, Manson-Bishop. Conversions: John, Gomersall.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: * A Dalwood (St Albans and St Edmund's); N Walne (Caerleon CS and St Catharine's), * A Pailtrey (St Cyre's and Hughes Hall), S Cottrell (Christs College, Christchurch and St Edmund's), J Reynolds (Christ College, Bracon and Homerton); M McCarthy (Mount St Mary's, Sheffield and Hughes Hall), J Davies (Gresham's and Downing); L Mooriy (St Boniface's, Plymouth and Hughes Hall), I Mackenzie (Brentwood County HS and Homerton), M Cox (St Columba's, Dublin and Hughes Hall), A Metcalfe (Sedbergh and Homerton), * R Bramley (QEGS Wakefield and St Edmund's), * N Richardson (King's, Worcester and St Edmund's), E Rollitt (St Paul's and Magdalene).

MR STEELE-BODGER'S XV: R Ashforth (Wakefield); J Wydenbach (Richmond), R Lozowski, (Bracknell and England), F Clough (Scotland and England), H Davies (Wasps and England); C John (Cardiff), A Gomersall (Wasps); G Rowntree (Leicester), B Gilchrist (London Scottish), A Mullins, (Harlequins and England), * Emeruwa (Wasps), N Hadley (Wasps and Canada), G Manson-Bishop (Newport), M White (Wasps), P Alston (Bedford).

Referee: C Harrison (East Midlands)

South Africans at full strength

By David Hands

THE South African touring party has split so neatly into Saturday and midweek sides that it would have been a surprise had they announced yesterday the slightest variation in the team that will play Wales in Cardiff on Saturday. Thus the same XV and replacements who served them so well in the 34-10 defeat of Scotland will do duty again.

It will be their fourth international under the coaching of Kitch Christie, who has yet to prepare a losing side, having seen his charges beat Argentina twice before Scotland.

His predecessor, Ian McIntosh, who is leading one of the groups of supporters in Britain, must have wished he could have enjoyed a similar start rather than taking on France and Australia, who were the opposition in his first five games as national coach last year.

The Australians have taken due note of South Africa's recent successes. "I'm not too sure if they have moved up the pecking order but they have certainly improved their performances and are much more of a threat," Bob Dwyer, the coach of the Wallabies, said. "They're just a more complete side than they were two years ago."

Tinus Linee, the Western Province centre who was a late addition to the South African touring party when Christian Scholtz withdrew, is himself returning home after suffering concussion during the game against Pontypridd on Tuesday. Linee was hurt in a head-on collision with Jason Lewis late in the game. With only three matches left of the tour, he will not be replaced.

SOUTH AFRICA: A J Joubert (Natal); P Hendriks (Transvaal), P G Muller (Natal), J C Mulder (Transvaal), C M Williams (Western Province); H P le Roux (Transvaal), J H van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal); J P du Randt (Orange Free State), U L Schmidt (Transvaal), T G Laubscher (Western Province), J F Pienaar (Transvaal, captain), M G Andrews (Natal), P J W Schutte (Transvaal), R J Kruger (Northern Transvaal), R A W Strauli (Transvaal). Replacements: K B Putt (Natal), J T Stransky (Western Province), D K Johnson (Transvaal), J Dalton (Transvaal), I S Swart (Transvaal), C P Strauss (Western Province).

Four British sides will compete in the 25th Dubai Exiles International Sevens, which start in the United Arab Emirates tomorrow. White Hart Marauders, from England, will be defending their title.

WORDWATCHING

Answers from page 48

PAVISAND
(c) To display a formidable array of clothing and ornament, to flaunt one's appearance, from *pavisade*. Kipling, *Rewards & Fairies*, 1910: "Forth she come pavisanding like a peacock — stuff, ruff, stomacher and all."

PROSPHORA
(e) A religious offering, especially the bread offered for use in the Eucharist, from the Greek for "the things that are presented": Gladstone, *Contemporary Review*, 1874: "Uniting the humble and unworthy prosphora with the one full perfect and sufficient Sacrifice, to offer it upon the altar of the heart."

RIKKA
(a) A traditional form of Japanese flower-arrangement, from the Japanese word, literally standing flowers. "Rikka is the oldest established form of flower arrangement, dating back five centuries. It is a complex style with 11 main branches presenting a stylised representation of the landscape of Buddhist paradise."

PIFFER
(b) A member of the Punjab Frontier Force (a military unit raised in 1849 and employed especially to police the North-West frontier of India during the British Raj) or one of the regiments that succeeded it. An acronym from the initials of the force + -er. "The Guides, the Punjab Frontier Force (Piffers), the Sikhs and the Gurkhas, would have allowed no affectation of superiority from any British regiment, household or line."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Qf4! places intolerable pressure on h6 and if 1 ... Nxf4 then 2 Rxh6+! Qxh6 3 Rg8 is mate.



Doherty took the final two frames to establish an early lead against O'Sullivan

Morgan faces uphill struggle to survive

By Phil Yates

DARREN Morgan will have to repeat a recovery of 12 months ago if he is to eliminate Stephen Hendry from the quarter-finals of the Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom snooker championship at Preston Guild Hall today.

In the last 16 of the 1993 championship, Morgan fought back from a 6-2 overnight deficit to beat Jimmy White 9-7 and, after the opening session against Hendry yesterday, Morgan found himself in an identical predicament. Unfortunately for Morgan, who has managed to prevail in only one of his previous nine meetings with the world champion, Hendry is not prone to the bouts of inconsistency that plague White and he rarely surrenders substantial leads.

Morgan, the world No 8, accounted for the first frame with a 67 break and dominated the fourth with runs of 30 and 60, but, in between, Hendry won the second with a 69 break and the third with a last red to pink clearance.

From 2-2, Hendry began to show the break-building touch that enabled him to establish a record of 454 unanswered points during a 9-2 victory over Willie Thorne in the previous round on Saturday.

Contributions of 54, 40, 94, and 39 helped Hendry, the 1989 and 1990 United Kingdom champion, to move 5-2 ahead and, thanks to runs of 30 and 35, he erased a 59-1 deficit to steal the eighth frame on the black. That was a considerable setback for Morgan, who had missed the simplest of reds to a middle pocket when in sight of limiting his overnight arrears to 5-3.

Ken Doherty, who beat Ronnie O'Sullivan in the semi-finals of the Regal Masters in September and went on to capture the title, led the defending United Kingdom champion 5-3. O'Sullivan won the third frame on the pink after Doherty had failed to pot a straightforward brown to a middle pocket and he led 3-2 as a result of a 94 break in the fifth. Indeed, O'Sullivan would surely have been 4-2 up had he not suffered an unfortunate in-off when potting the brown in the sixth.

Taking advantage of his reprieve, Doherty cleared up to win the frame on the black for 3-3 and, with a series of fragmentary scoring visits, the Irishman also took the closing two frames of the afternoon.

A tape recording of the press conference given by Alex Higgins after his 9-4 defeat by Dave Harold on Tuesday evening is to be sent to the board of the game's governing body, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), who will presumably decide whether its content requires disciplinary action.

Most of Higgins's criticism was aimed at John Street, the referee, but Ann Yates, the tournament director, yesterday gave her full backing to Street, a senior and respected official.

"Two other referees, one of whom was scoring, and John Spencer, the WPBSA chairman, who was in the commentary box, saw every ball potted and throughout the match they saw nothing untoward. As far as we are concerned, John Street did a good job," Yates said.

RESULTS. Third round: J Parrott (Eng) b; M Williams (Wales) 9-8. D Harold (Eng) bt A Huggins (N Ire) 9-4. Latest positions: Quarter-finals: S Hendry (Scot) leads D Morgan (Wales) 6-2; K Doherty (Ire) leads R O'Sullivan (Eng) 5-3

Not even Mr. Schumacher could have stopped this Brit and his Subaru.



Colin McRae brushes off the opposition to win the RAC Rally for Subaru.

Not even the determination of a certain German Grand Prix driver could have denied victory to Britain's Colin McRae and Derek Ringer in their Subaru Impreza 555. Awesome power and tenacious roadholding on the most intimidating terrain combined with their unyielding will to win brought triumph to Subaru in the most gruelling event in British motorsport – The RAC Rally. Crowning a season of stunning success, the Subaru continued to outclass the world's best on every surface under the sun, rain, wind and snow. Proving yet again that Subaru performance, build strength and reliability are more than a match for the toughest roads, roughest rallies and most determined drivers on Earth. To learn more about the 2WD and 4WD road-going relatives of this mean, magnificent son of a Subaru, call 0753 696200. SUBARU

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Australia's potential match-winner exudes confidence on eve of battle

England's hope lies in shutting out Warne

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN BRISBANE

THE MAN all Australia believes has the Ashes at his fingertips addressed a roomful of respectfully agog journalists yesterday with a cigarette in his bowling hand, a stud in his ear and a back-to-front baseball cap perched above a face daubed with sunblock. Cricketers of another generation may frown their disapproval but Shane Warne could nowadays turn up in drag without reproof, so long as he continues to cast his beguiling spell over the game.

Around him, on a day of sub-plot and intrigue, the England captain was disarming the notion that he had fallen out with his chairman of selectors but declining to allow the opposition any clues to his XI for the first Test match, which begins here tomorrow. Meanwhile, the chicken-pox outbreak that has already disabled Devon Malcolm caused a scare in the Australia dressing-room. Feeling unwell, Michael Bevan and Ian Healy are under medical observation.

Yet for all the drama that is preceding this series, there is one eclipsing certainty. Unless they find a more effective way of countering Warne than they did last year, England will be beaten again, perhaps as crushingly as they have been in the last three Ashes series.

Warne is the obsessing issue of the next ten weeks. England may have potentially the better fast bowlers, Australia the superior batting scope. But when it comes to spin bowling, as it often must during games that will mostly be played on dry and bouncy pitches, Warne stands alone at the top of the bill, a peerless match-winner, a role model for the young and a celebrity even to those few, hereabouts, who profess no love of cricket.

There is no point in belittling him, and Michael Atherton wisely does not try. Having short-circuited questions about Raymond Illingworth's curiously indiscreet remarks on the conduct of the tour by explaining he had spoken "very amicably" with his chairman by telephone, Atherton easily guessed the next subject on the agenda. "You must have respect for good bowlers and Warne is high-class," he said. "We have looked at videos of him but we certainly have no phobia about him."

Not yet, anyway. But the wrist spinner who took 34 wickets in the last Ashes series is cheerfully intent on changing that. Already he is indulging in wide-eyed psychology, encouraging the speculation abounding over his putative mystery balls. He has no intention of revealing precisely how they behave but he was happy yesterday to explain that their origin was a chance meeting with the former leg spinner, Abdul Qadir, of Pakistan.

"We met in Lahore and one evening, at his manager's house, Abdul showed me how to bowl certain different deliveries. He did it just by flicking a ball on to a carpet. I have been practising them in the nets since I came home and if I have enough confidence in them by Friday, I might try them in the Test."

Warne was not offended by the suggestion that he might be conning the opposition. "They can think that if they want," he said. "We'll see how they cope once I start bowling." Nor was he convinced that England would be better equipped to negate him. "They may know how I bowl but I know how they bat. We talk about all their batsmen and know their weaknesses. That is our advantage."

Warne was interestingly reticent about Graeme Hick, the one batsman likely to take him on in a style that could disrupt his phenomenal rhythm. Hick scored 187 against the Australians for Worcestershire last May and Warne admitted: "He seems to be in a bit of form at the moment. I hope the fast bowlers knock him over quickly."

If it is surprising that Warne has played only once at the Gabba — when taking eight wickets in an innings win over New Zealand a year ago — it is extraordinary that Graham Gooch has played only one previous Test here, and that 16 years ago. It was Gooch's first overseas Test and he made two in each innings. England need many more than that from him tomorrow.

Gooch will bat at No 5, almost certainly followed by John Crawley, though Atherton will not confirm the line-up until an hour before the start. "I see no reason to show my hand," he says, reasonably. There is, however, no longer any question of playing four seam bowlers. One look at the pitch, dry and apparently full of runs, convinced Atherton that Philip Tufnell, his spin bowler, was essential.

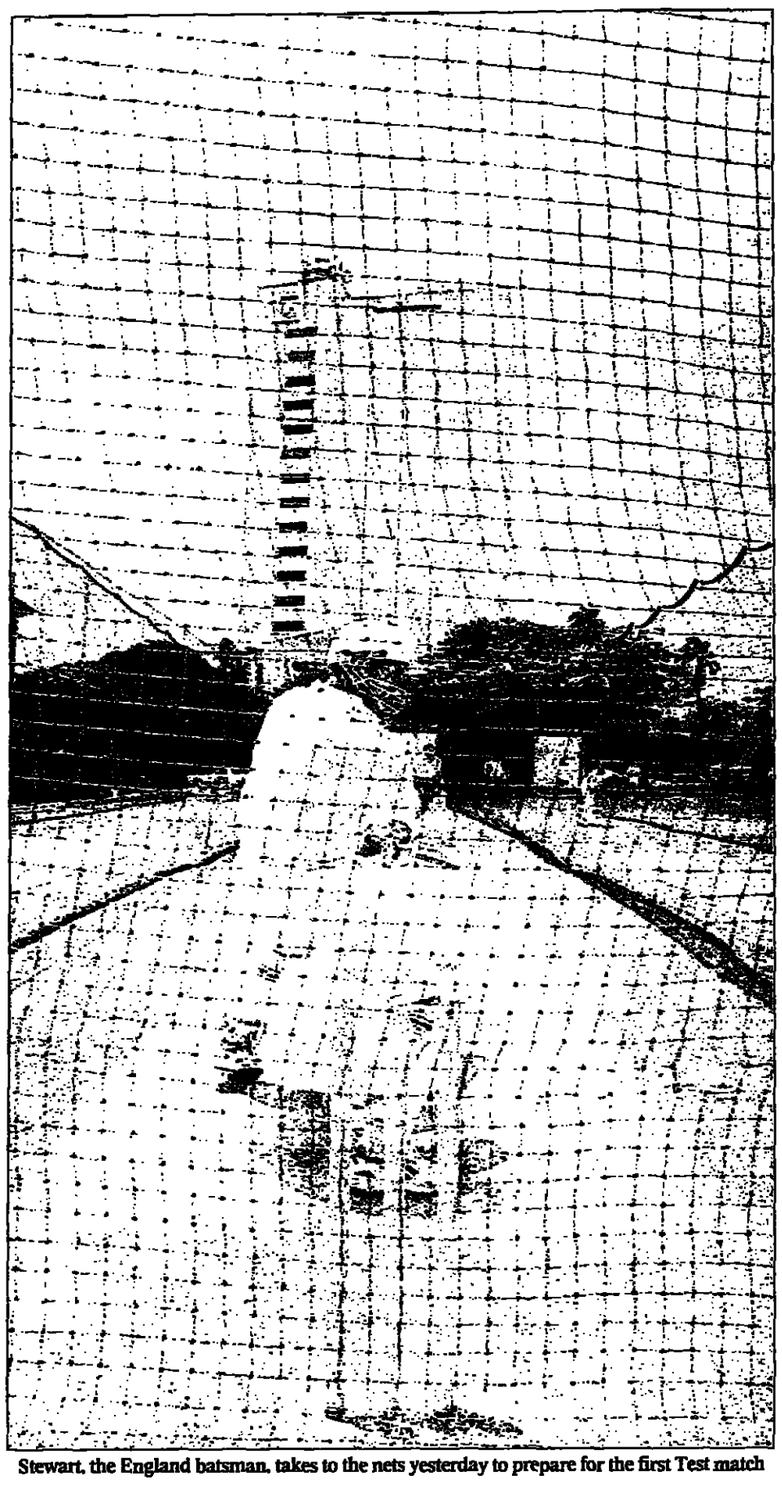
Bob Simpson, the Australia coach, studied the pitch and said: "I wouldn't mind being 30 years younger and opening the batting on that." Both sides will be keen to win the toss and Australia are likely to include the off spinner, Tim May, alongside Warne and field only two front-line seamers. It may seem a high-risk strategy until it is remembered that they pursued it in England last year. Atherton's team needs no reminding that that series finished 4-1 in Australia's favour.

☐ *Ball-by-ball coverage will be carried on Sky Sports, starting at 11.30 tonight, and on Radio 5 Live from midnight.*

PROBABLE TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: M A Taylor *(captain)*, M J Slater, D C Boon, M E Waugh, M G Bevan, S R Waugh, I A Healy, S K Warne, G D McGrath, C J McDermott, T B A May.

ENGLAND: M A Atherton *(captain)*, A J Stewart, G A Hick, G P Thorpe, G A Gooch, J P Crawley, S J Rhodes, P A J DeFreitas, D Gough, M J McCague, P C R Tufnell



Stewart, the England batsman, takes to the nets yesterday to prepare for the first Test match

McDermott a threat on pitch made for seamers

BY SIMON WILDE

THE England players have had little first-hand experience of the special conditions that prevail at the Woolloongabba, where the first Test match starts tomorrow. The pitches there have tended to assist the medium-pace bowler who moves the ball around off the seam.

The visitors will be looking to Graeme Hick to provide them with some local knowledge. He spent the 1990-91 season with Queensland and, at Brisbane, fell cheaply to a succession of medium-pace bowlers. He did, however, score a match-winning century in his most-recent innings on the ground. The visiting Western Australia attack on that occasion included Martin McCague, who was more profligate than England can afford him to be now.

Atherton, Stewart and Fraser were all participants in England's last disastrous visit to the ground, when the opening Test on the tour four years ago was surrendered in just three days. In a low-scoring contest, England took a first-innings lead of 42 but were then destroyed by Alderman, who took six for 47, and Australia duly won by ten wickets. Only Gatting and DeFreitas, who made important contributions to the victory in 1986-87, and Gooch, in 1978-79, have tasted success in a Brisbane Test.

In view of the conditions, McDermott may be the key player for Australia. He has helped Queensland to win numerous matches on the ground and in six Tests has claimed 31 wickets at an average of 22. The seamers may not have it all their own way, however. Shane Warne's only Test appearance at Brisbane was against New Zealand a year ago: he took eight wickets and scored 74 runs.

AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND AT WOOLLOONGABBA: *England record:* played 14, won 4, lost 7, drawn 3. Statistics (England first): Highest totals: 464 (1970-71), 645 (1946-47). Lowest totals: 114 (1990-91), 58 (1936-37). Highest innings: 138 I T Botham (1986-87), 207 K R Stackpole (1970-71). Best bowling: 6-41 W Voce (1936-37), 7-60 K R Miller (1946-47).

TEST CAREER AVERAGES

England

Batting

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct/s
M A Atherton	40	74	1	2917	151	39.95	7	19	30
J E Benjamin	1	1	0	0	0	0.00	—	—	—
J P Crawley	3	5	0	59	38	11.80	—	—	4
P A J DeFreitas	39	58	5	769	69	14.50	—	3	12
A R C Fraser	21	29	4	180	29	7.20	—	—	6
M W Gatting	74	129	14	4227	207	36.75	9	21	56
G A Gooch	113	205	6	8655	333	43.49	20	45	103
D Gough	4	5	2	146	65	48.66	—	1	—
G A Hick	29	50	1	1725	178	35.20	2	9	41
D E Malcolm	28	40	13	158	18	5.85	—	—	4
M J McCague	2	3	0	20	11	6.66	—	—	1
S J Rhodes	6	8	4	222	65*	55.50	—	—	12/2
A J Stewart	43	78	5	2982	190	40.84	7		155 3/4
G P Thorpe	10	19	2	708	114*	41.64	1	6	14
P C R Tufnell	18	25	14	56	22*	5.09	—	—	8
C White	4	6	0	131	51	21.83	—	1	3

* denotes not out

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	BB	5i	10m
M A Atherton	61	11	282	1	282.00	1-60	—	—
J E Benjamin	28	3	80	4	20.00	4-42	—	—
P A J DeFreitas	1428.4	326	4027	125	32.21	7-70	4	—
A R C Fraser	944.1	225	2370	85	27.88	8-75	6	—
M W Gatting	125.2	29	317	4	79.25	1-14	—	—
G A Gooch	417.3	116	996	22	45.22	3-39	—	—
D Gough	170.2	28	566	17	33.29	4-46	—	—
G A Hick	363.5	107	815	19	48.15	4-126	—	—
	2.36							
D E Malcolm	1031.4	182	3438	96	35.08	9-57	5	2
M J McCague	79.1	13	294	4	73.50	4-121	—	—
A J Stewart	3.2	0	13	0	—	—	—	—
G P Thorpe	8	2	15	0	—	—	—	—
P C R Tufnell	855.2	232	2229	58	38.43	7-47	4	1
C White	78.1	17	258	8	32.25	3-18	—	—

S D Udal has not played Test cricket

Australia

Batting

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct/s
M G Bevan	3	4	0	243	81	60.75	—	3	5
D C Boon	82	165	20	6713	200	46.29	19	30	88
D W Fleming	1	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—
I A Healy	64	93	10	2180	113*	26.26	2	13	198/14
T B A May	21	23	9	194	42*	13.85	—	—	6
C J McDermott	60	76	10	855	42*	12.95	—	—	12
G D McGrath	7	8	2	15	9	2.50	—	—	—
M J Slater	18	30	1	1401	168	48.31	3	7	4
M A Taylor	57	102	7	4382	219	46.12	12	25	76
S K Warne	29	38	7	509	74*	16.41	—	1	19
M E Waugh	39	61	4	2397	139*	42.05	6	15	51
S R Waugh	67	101	18	3686	177*	44.18	7	21	50

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	BB	5i	10m
M G Bevan	8	0	48	1	48.00	1—21	—	—
D C Boon	6	3	14	0	—	—	—	—
D W Fleming	48	5	161	7	23.00	4-75	—	—
T B A May	995.1	291	2387	74	32.25	5-9	3	—
C J McDermott	2331.2	477	7022	238	29.50	8-97	9	2
G D McGrath	292.2	70	729	19	38.36	4-82	—	—
M J Slater	1.1	0	4	1	4.00	1-4	—	—
M A Taylor	7	3	26	1	26.00	1-11	—	—
S K Warne	1512.3	522	3284	134	24.50	7-52	7	1
M E Waugh	347	90	987	25	39.48	4-80	—	—
S R Waugh	960.1	246	2574	67	38.41	5-28	3	—

Source: TCCB/PA Cricket Record

RADIO CHOICE

New light on an old charge

Captain Nolan's Chance. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

Everybody, apparently, seems to have had a go at interpreting why the charge of the Light Brigade went wrong, so why shouldn't Kingsley Amis try his hand at it, too? The hand could not be more practised in the art of character drawing. The problem is that *Captain Nolan's Chance* has too many characters, and I was not always sure who was saying what to whom. Surprisingly, we hear not a word from Lord Raglan who was made a scapegoat for the military débâcle. The intriguing solution that Amis puts up for our consideration is that Captain Nolan (Nicholas Boulton) planned the blunder. For me, the Amis solution holds water.

Ensemble: The Medici Quartet. *Radio 3, Noon.*

It was the next best thing to music-making by committee. One of the two works we hear the Medici play today was composed in the 1880s by four of Russia's finest composers. The first movement was Rimsky-Korsakov's, the scherzo Lyadov's, and the finale was by Glazunov. The quartet was a birthday surprise for their friend, fellow musician and subsequently their impresario, M.P. Byelayev. Its title, Quartet on a Theme B-La-F, is clever, because not only are these the principal notes used in the theme, but they are also an abbreviation of the dedicatee's name. In his autobiography, Rimsky-Korsakov recalls some "gigantic wining and dining" at the quartet's birthday party premiere.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Emma Freud, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Goodier 4.00 Nicky Campbell with Drivetime, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Soundbite: music magazine programme 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00-4.00am Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy with the Early Show 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Children In Need: Judi Spiers launches the 1994 appeal on Radio 2. Listeners can help to choose the music or introduce their own request on the air in return for a donation. The Pledgeline number is Freecall 0500 221122. Lines open until 7pm tomorrow 8.30 Brian Matthew 10.00 The Jamaeons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester, including at 3.30 Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine, with Diana Madill including at 9.40 Film Review; 10.15 Work It Out; 10.35 Euronews; 11.00 Gut Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mair, including at 12.34pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.20 the day's sport in full 7.35 Women on Top: with Frances Edmonds 8.05 Arthur Smith on the Floor: live debate 9.05 SportsAmerica 10.05 News Talk, with Paul Reynolds 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.00am Test Match Special: Australia v England. First Test of the Ashes series

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 Fruhmagazin 5.00 Newshour 6.00 Morgenmagazine 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 Network UK 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Good Books 8.30 John Peel 9.00 News 9.05 Business 9.15 From Our Own Correspondent 9.30 Farming World 9.45 Sports 10.00 News 10.01 Assignment 10.30 Music, Mirth and Memories of Childhood 11.00 Newsdesk 11.15 BBC English 11.45 Mittagsmagazin 12.00 World News 12.10pm Words of Faith 12.15 Multitrack 12.45 Sports 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf 2.45 The Learning World 3.00 News 3.15 The Greenfield Collection 4.00 News 4.10 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.05 Business 5.15 BBC English 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 Kaleidoscop 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Europe Today 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Network UK 10.45 Sports 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Music, Mirth and Memories of Childhood 12.00 News 1.10 News 12.15am Music Review 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 On the Move 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Six Feet Under 3.00 News 3.10 News 3.15 Sports 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Newsdesk

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 5.00 Classic Reports 7.00 The Travel Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Meppin 1.00am André Leon

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Wendy Lloyd 7.00 Nick Abbot 10.00 Paul Coyte 2.00-6.00am Janey Grace

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather
7.00 **On Air:** Schubert (Entr'acte, Rosamunde: Orpheus Chamber Orchestra); Delius (Le ciel est pardessus le toit; La lune blanche); 7.32 *Quartet Collection:* Haydn (String Quartet in D, Op 17 No 6) Tatrai Quartet; 8.05 Chopin (Nocturne in C sharp minor); Wilbye (Draw on sweet night); Martinů (Sinfonietta giocosa)
9.00 **Composer of the Week:** Schnittke. Ritual (Malmo Symphony Orchestra under Stefan Parkman); Choir Concerto (Danish National Radio Choir under Stefan Parkman)
10.00 **Musical Encounters:** Purcell (Welcome, welcome glorious morn); Copland (Quiet City); Lili Boulanger (Les Sirènes); 10.20 *Artist of the Week:* Barry Douglas, piano. Beethoven (Piano Sonata in C, Op 53, Waldstein); 10.50 Kanchelli (Symphony No 4, in Commemoration of Michelangelo); Mozart (Exsultate, jubilate); Poulenc (Suite: Les Biches)
12.00 **Ensemble** (r). See Choice
1.00pm **Shostakovich:** Symphony No 13, Babi Yar (Vitali Gromadsky, bass; Russian State Academic Choir; Yurlov Russian Choir; Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra under Kirill Kondrashin)
2.00 **Schools:** Radio C and A (r) 2.05 In the News 2.25 Something to Think About: Infant Assemblies 2.40 Music Workshop: Music Course 3 — Sherlock Holmes and the Rogues' Gallery
3.00 **Soviet Symphonies:** Tishchenko (Symphony No 5); Ustvol'skaya (Symphony No 5); Pärt (Symphony No 2); Gubaidulina (Symphony in 12 Movements)
5.00 **The Music Machine:** Tommy Pearson asks two teenagers what they want to do in the music business
5.15 **In Tune:** with Sean Rafferty from the Belfast Festival at Queen's. Handel (Oboe Sonata in C minor, Op 1 No 8); Stanndale Bennett (Caprice in E); Alan Mills (Hymn to Alan)
7.30 **BBC Symphony Orchestra:** Stephen Chatman (Crimson Dream); Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor); 8.05 The Passionate Sceptic. Professor Haydn Mason considers the legacy of Voltaire. 8.25 Beethoven (Symphony No 3 in E flat, Eroica)
9.25 **The Real Thing:** Madonna. Iwan Russell-Jones looks at the fourth of five icons of Americana
9.45 **French Piano Miniatures:** Pascal Rogé, piano, plays Satie (Gnossiennes Nos 1, 2 and 3); Poulenc (Trois Novelettes); Satie (Croquis et agaceries d'un gros bonhomme en bois)
10.15 **Strange Arrangement:** Alan Plater talks to composer, bandleader and pianist Carla Bley (r)
10.45 **Night Waves:** Review of a new production by the English National Opera of Mussorgsky's opera *Khovanshchina*
11.30-12.30am **Voices:** Programme of Russian songs

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News** 9.05 **The Moral Maze:** Michael Buerk investigates
10.00-10.30 **News; No Commitments** (FM only): The return of the comedy series by Simon Brett following the lives of three sisters. With Rosemary Leach, Nicola Pagett and Celia Imrie
10.00 **Daily Service** (LW only)
10.15 **The Hindu Scriptures** (LW)
10.30 **Woman's Hour,** introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial: A Temporary Affair (3/12)
11.30 **From Our Own Correspondent**
12.00 **News; You and Yours,** with Tasneem Siddiqi
12.25pm **The Year in Question:** Brian Hayes hosts the second heat of the news quiz. This week, Radio 5 Live's Midday with Mair plays Reuters Radio News 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One,** with Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; Captain Nolan's Chance:** See Choice
3.00 **Anderson Country,** with Gerry Anderson
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope:** Paul Allen reports on a new production of Pinter's play Landscape, and reviews Calamity Jane at the Haymarket Theatre in Leicester
4.45 **Short Story: Freepost,** by T.J. Davies. Read by Laurence Allan
5.00 **PM** 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **Harry Hill's Fruit Corner:** With guest Rolf Harris
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **Eyewitness:** The poet Nigel Forde ponders, in verse, the changing face of British towns
8.00 **Analysis:** Go Home Mickey Mouse. Francis Cairncross asks whether American imports of television and pop music threaten Europe's culture
8.45 **Medical Notes:** Michael Oliver investigates the illnesses and death of the composer Robert Schumann
9.00 **Does He Take Sugar?** With Judy Graham
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight,** with Robin Lustig
10.45 **Bond at Bedtime: Nights at the Circus,** by Angela Carter
11.00 **Stanza:** *Façade for the Nineties,* a composition of words and music developed by composers Glyn Evans and Simon Bainbridge, poet Mick Gower and young writers and musicians
11.30-12.00 **Tales from the Back of Beyond** (FM only): A group of undergraduates from Nottingham University travel to Bolivia in an attempt to save the endangered blue-throated macaw from bounty hunters (r)
11.30 **Today in Parliament** (LW only)
12.00-12.43am **News,** incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping 12.43 As World Service (LW)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Manny

Hick confronts task of delivering Ashes head-on

Alan Lee reports on how England's batting enigma has moved onto the front foot in his determination to give Australia the run-around

The protective shell is a natural defence for sensitive creatures. Graeme Hick, who admits without shame or regret to numbering among them, used such a device for years, creating around him the enigma of a misunderstood mute.

This had a variety of consequences. Because Hick was not the forceful personality people wanted him to be — because, indeed, his personality was a closed book — his batting was crudely dissected instead. And, because he was sensitive, the shell became thicker and the personality retreated ever further.

The vicious circle, if continued, would have destroyed him, and some, offended by the presence of any Africans in the England cricket team but infuriated by the remoteness of Hick, in particular, would not have mourned. But something has happened to Hick. He has not shed his sensitivity but he has become conspicuously positive in thought and action. He is batting assertively and talking confidently.

The coming few days will portend his destiny. If the faith of his supporters is not to give way to terminal frustration, four years into his Test career, Hick must play a commanding role in the Ashes series. There is a sense that the time is right, a sense he feels. Unusually, he is prepared to share those feelings.

"I am 28 now and I have set myself some very big long-term targets. I have to make up for a few lost years," he said. As we spoke, the smile he too often conceals was prevalent and the self-consciousness that has arguably retarded his career was not.

"In my first dozen Tests or so, I was trying to do everything so very properly. I was scared to play a shot that would probably get me four runs but just might get me out. So I never batted as I can. I have learnt now that Test cricket is really all about taking people on, grasping opportunities, seizing the moment. You cannot be scared to make a mistake. Fear of failure is a terrible thing."

Hick has always been popular among his team-mates, for he is uncomplicated, sociable within his own circle. He is also admired for his prodigious fitness — "Arnie", after Schwarzenegger, they called him on his first tour. And yet only now, for the first time since his fanfared debut in 1991, does Hick feel that he genuinely belongs in the England dressing-room.

"Some of that is down to improved performance, but not all of it. My own attitude contributes greatly. It's not that I believe I am in the side for keeps, it's just that I look forward rather than back. It's like playing an innings — once a ball is bowled, it's gone, so think about the next one."

The Hick of old was incapable of such simple self-focus. He would brood unprofitably about a dismissal, rage inwardly about media criticism and analyse all offers of technical advice to the point of total confusion. His path out of the maze has not been sudden or direct: it has come through personal maturity, fatherhood (his wife and two-year-old daughter, Lauren, are due to arrive here next week) and counselling of those whose approach to life he respects. To speak publicly of it now is part of his catharsis.

"Waiting so long to qualify for England built the whole thing up in my head," he recalled. "There was such hype about me playing and, each time I failed, it prolonged the agony. Mentally, I wasn't quite right at that stage, but so much rubbish was written by people who didn't know me at all."

The criticism hurt, not only for himself but for his family. "At least I could do something about it in the middle. They just had to take it, and they naturally became protective. Nowadays, I hardly ever read things about myself, even when I have done well."

Of his notorious vulnerability against the short ball, Hick is scornful. "I had made 20,000 runs before I played a Test, so I can't have been that bad. No batsman has the perfect technique — there is always something to pick holes in — so when things went wrong for me, people went looking."

Allan Border, recently retired as the Australia captain, is not convinced by such protestations. "Graeme looked fantastic against almost everything except good fast bowling," he said. "It was his Achilles' heel. Everyone knew it, everyone was using it. For him to be successful at this level, he had to come up with a way of playing the short ball, whether it was ducking, hooking or just getting out of the way. He now seems to be handling it well. If he comes to terms with it totally, he will be a real force in the series."

Hick conceded that he has now altered his method — "though nothing drastic". The most fundamental advance is that he has restored the emphasis to his front foot, both physically and metaphorically.

Driving in the arc between extra cover and mid-wicket has always been his strength and he has now devised a front-foot pull stroke to combat the short ball. More significant, it no longer concerns him, and nor, if he is to be believed, does the threat of some unfriendly verbal advice during an innings. "It has happened to me since I was 15 and club players took exception to this kid scoring hundreds off them," he said.

Hick has always scored hundreds, including 78 at first-class level, but he has still made only two in Test cricket. It is time that changed. For a player who averaged a paltry 18.90 in his first 13 Tests, it is already some shift of gear to average 47.43 in his next 16, but there is better to come. The player Hick is capable of being can score 500 runs in a five-Test series. This might just be the winter when he proves it. The best news is that he believes it himself.



Hick looks ahead to the first Test in Brisbane. Photograph: Graham Morris

An unfunny thing happened on the way . . .

Anyone puzzled by the quite dire condition in which British television comedy finds itself has only to glance at the television schedules to find the explanation. All our very best comedians are off doing other things — such as not being funny.

And very unsettling it is, too. I'm still, for example, having terrible trouble with Griff Rhys Jones as he chews his way through *The Bookworm* in that wonderful, sub-Sindenesque manner that gets you smiling long before the punchline. Or rather it did when he still had punchlines. It's not that the voice doesn't make me smile any more, it does. It's just that I feel rather silly watching the countdown of Newcastle's best-sellers list with a big grin on my face.

I blame *Holiday* for pioneering the radical notion that comedians might usefully be relieved of their humorous duties. Already Maureen Lipman has been dispatched (admittedly, only as far as Southwold), while Richard Wilson returns shortly to demonstrate his skill with one foot on the brake of the Harley Davidson motorcycle that he rode round Australia.

But nowhere has the trend been embraced more enthusiastically than BBC2's **Great Journeys**, which has come up with an interesting variation on the theme — using comic actors of . . . shall we say, limited stature. Last week it was Sandi Toksvig paddling her father's canoe down the Zambezi. Last night it was Tony Robinson cooking up a mid-life crisis in the Caribbean. Ronnie Corbett must be packing his bags.

Whether Robinson's journey counts as great must be debatable. A loop-the-loop itinerary that took in Jamaica, Dominica, the Dominican Republic and finally Trinidad, smacked of someone driven by an island-hopping ticket rather than a genuine urge to explore. But to make up for it, Robinson laid on the mid-life crisis with a trowel.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Whether it was the shock of arriving at a resort called Hedonism just in time for the toga party, or the after-effect of Jenny's hallucinogenic mushroom tea, Robinson's commentary had a curious, otherworldly quality. One minute he was dismissing another of Hedonism's parlour games as an "innocent nude version of amateur dramatics" the next he was bemoaning "the wholesale slaughter of Dominica's Indians", or comparing the Trinidad carnival to the anti-Vietnam war marches of his youth. Not even that Jamaican exile Noël Coward could cheer him up, he dismissed him as a show-off. "But I know all about the desire for attention and approval. It's like a craving, gnawing into your guts." Suddenly the Newcastle best-seller list was sounding awfully attractive.

Still, anyone with a craving (mid-life or otherwise) for wobbly flesh had much to admire. So much so that I hardly batted an eyelid when Robinson arrived in Dominica and promptly announced it as "a place of breast". Only when he started going on about the lack of crowds, hassles and parking meters did I begin to think I might have misheard.

Apart from a morning of mud and merry-making in Trinidad, it was far from clear whether a by now positively melancholic Robinson had enjoyed his journey. "There's always a cost to pleasure, isn't there?" Not when the BBC is paying the bill, there isn't.

Over on Channel 4, the **Travelog** budget presumably doesn't run to comedy stars, so it makes do with journalists and disc-jockeys. Still, Stephanie Calman managed to pack more good jokes into her short report on the Western Isles than Robinson had on his Caribbean tour. But then she wasn't having a mid-life crisis as the Isle of Lewis shut up shop, and everything else, for the Sabbath. "Everyone is a Cinderella here, as at 12 o'clock on Saturday night the place turns into a pumpkin. If it moves, it's on its way to pray."

Such godliness would undoubtedly go down well in Malawi, where a far from impartial Andy Kershaw found the people in unexpectedly forgiving mood following the removal of that fly-swatting despot and sometime elder of the church of Scotland, Dr Hastings Banda. "Malawi is a Christian people," Kershaw was told, "we're not avenging Dr Banda." At 98, Banda would soon be answering to a rather higher authority, was the message.

Even BBC2's **Wildlife Showcase** is calling on comedy. Last week it was Hugh Laurie supplying the voice-over, last night it was Andrew Sachs. But thankfully Sachs played it straight and let Frédéric Fougea's breathtakingly beautiful film, *He Dances for His Cormorants* tell its own story. With wonderful scenery, and faces straight out of *The Seventh Seal*, every frame was a masterpiece.

The story was that of Zong Man, whose family have been cormorant fishing for more than 1,000 years on the River Li, in southern China, and in particular of Mao, the pick of the 12 male cormorants that provide Zong Man with a living. The time had come for Mao to find a mate. So Zong Man called on the services of Wang Jin Ji, a retired fisherman who now runs a *sort of cormorant dating agency*.

From a short-list of two, it was Mao himself who eventually plumped for Princess Celeste, who contrary to expectations was not wearing a pair of white stilettos, but a dainty pair of webbed feet. Given the exquisite delicacy of the film, I rather hoped we would be spared the consummation of this cormorant love-match. Sadly not. Delivered to the honeymoon perch on the river-bank, Mao lost no time in climbing on top and biting Princess Celeste's neck. Zong Man was unconcerned: "He'll be back when he's had enough." That's cormorants for you.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (55347)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (98909908)

9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (2789892)

10.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (5020724)

10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday family magazine (s) (50052231)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7241960) **12.05pm Pebble Mill.** Alan Titchmarsh introduces the BBC Big Band (s) (6808618) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (26114569)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (68250)

1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (55491908) **1.50 The Great British Quiz** (s) (55495724)

2.15 Snooker. Quarter-final action in the Royal Liver Assurance UK championship from the Guild Hall, Preston (s) (313182)

3.50 Brum (s) (4040873) **4.05 The Animals of Farthing Wood** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (8864502) **4.30 The Boot Street Band.** (Ceefax) (s) (5043076)

4.55 Newsround (2204250) **5.05 Blue Peter.** A special report from Paris on the European Week of Scientific Culture. (Ceefax) (s) (2889095)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax). (s) (196818)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (347)

6.30 Regional news magazines (927)

7.00 Top of the Pops. (Ceefax) (s) (8347)

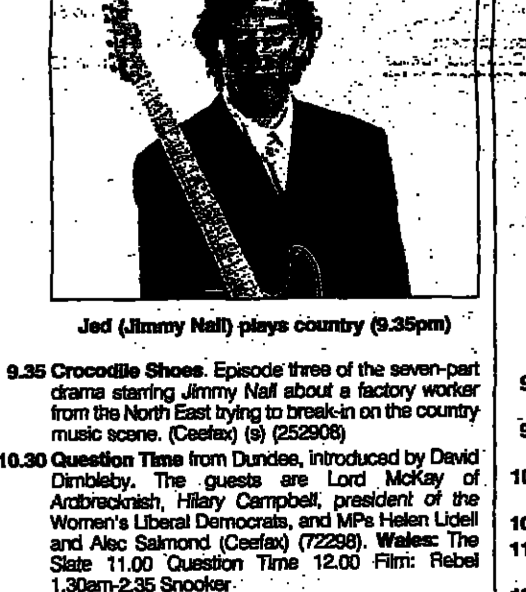
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (811)

8.00 Children's Hospital. More real-life dramas from Sheffield Children's Hospital. (Ceefax) (7095)

8.30 The Vicar of Dibley. Comedy series starring Dawn French as a woman vicar. (Ceefax) (6502)

9.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party. (Ceefax) (675057)

9.15 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (442521)



Jed (Jimmy Nail) plays country (9.35pm)

9.35 Crocodile Shoes. Episode three of the seven-part drama starring Jimmy Nail about a factory worker from the North East trying to break-in on the country music scene. (Ceefax) (s) (252908)

10.30 Question Time from Dundee, introduced by David Dimbleby. The guests are Lord McKay of Ardbrecknish, Hilary Campbell, president of the Women's Liberal Democrats, and MPs Helen Lidell and Alec Salmond (Ceefax) (72298). **Wales:** The Slate 11.00 Question Time 12.00 Film: Rebel 1.30am-2.35 Snooker

11.30 FILM: Rebel (1985) starring Matt Dillon, Debbie Byrne and Bryan Brown. A musical drama, set in Sydney during the Second World War, about an American deserter who becomes involved with an Australian night club singer. Directed by Michael Jenkins (s) (85250)

1.00am Snooker. David Vine introduces quarter-final highlights from the Royal Liver Assurance UK championship in Preston (s) (25380)

2.00 Weather (3108106). Ends at **2.05**

3.00-3.30 BBC Select: RCN Nursing Update (r) (19125)

BBC2

7.00 Crystal Tipps and Alistair (r) (8925873) **7.05 Barney** (r) (8924144) **7.10 Thundercats** (r) (2457665) **7.35 Growing Up Wild** (r) (9478705)

8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (6664057) **8.15 The Record.** Yesterday's parliamentary business (8988298) **8.35 Crawl into My Parlour.** A look at the life of the millipede, which is frequently ended by the dung beetle (9598705)

9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children **10.00-10.25** Playdays (6052057)

2.00 Wishing (r) (30089255) **2.10 Carol and Company.** American comedy drama (s) (23923618) **2.35 What a Carry On!** (r) (6397076)

3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by **Westminster with Nick Ross** (8228537) **3.50 News** (Ceefax) and weather (3055434)

4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (540)

4.30 Snooker. Two quarter-finals of the Royal Liver Assurance UK championship (s) (67182)

6.00 FILM: The Desperadoes (1943) starring Randolph Scott, Glenn Ford and Claire Trevor. Western drama, Columbia's first Technicolor feature, about a reformed gunman who comes under suspicion when a local bank is robbed. Directed by Charles Vidor (74960)

7.30 First Sight: Pulling Rank. A report by Jackie Spreckley on the controversy surrounding a plan by the Rank Organisation to build a holiday village in the woodlands of Lyminge in Kent; **Wales:** Hi-de-Hi; **East:** Matter of Fact; **Midlands:** Midlands Report; **North, North-east, North-west:** Close Up North; **South:** Southern Eye; **South-west:** Close Up; **West:** Close-up West (453)

8.00 Further Abroad. Jonathan Meades in praise of his favourite animal — the pig (r). (Ceefax) (s) (5637)

8.30 Top Gear. A report from Los Angeles on the "Lowriders", an Hispanic youth movement that decorates cars in flamboyant fashion. (Ceefax) (s) (4144)



Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny (9.00pm)

9.00 The X Files: Fallen Angel. (Ceefax) (s) (287453)

9.45 Forbidden Britain: Homelessness. (Ceefax) (s) (505502)

10.30 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party. (Ceefax) (850569)

10.35 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (731308)

11.20 Late Review with Mark Lawson and guests, Tom Paulin and Tony Parsons (s) (595705)

12.00 Weather (2270583)

12.05am News followed by **The Midnight Hour.** The day in Parliament (3456941). Ends at **1.00**

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CHOICE



Maura Babington's husband was shot (C4, 9.00pm)

Witness: Life After Death
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Just when you think that everything has been said on the Northern Ireland conflict, along comes a new angle on that tragic episode. Carlo Gebler's film intercuts the testimony of two people from opposite ends of the murder spectrum. Each tells a remarkable story with honesty and not a little courage. Maura Babington, now in her sixties, lost her husband in 1989. A Catholic, he was killed by the IRA in mistake for someone else. She still mourns him with an intensity that refuses to fade. A Protestant in his teens, Alistair Little was so stirred by the IRA murder of a friend's father that he shot dead a Catholic man he had never seen before. While Mrs Babington's loss undermined her religious faith, Little's 12 years in prison brought him closer to God.

Forbidden Britain
BBC2, 9.45pm

In the 1930s Britain had no homeless children. That, at least, was the official line though it is persuasively contradicted in this latest exploration of uncharted *areas of British social life. Alf Gregory recalls running* away from home at the age of seven to escape a brutal father. He lived rough, ate out of the hedgerows and slept in a churchyard. Other youngsters dreamt of escaping overseas. Some stowed away on ships and made it. Irish who migrated to Britain in the 1930s found work hard to get, faced hostility and prejudice and were forced to tramp the roads in their thousands. The programme also highlights the postwar squatters who took over disused army camps and even luxury flats in the West End of London.

Finney
ITV, 9.00pm

Through coincidence, or bloody mindedness, whichever you happen to believe, two Newcastle-based dramas are playing against each other on Thursday nights. The actress Melanie Hill must feel like a split personality, since she plays Jimmy Nail's sister in *Crocodile Shoes* on BBC1 and the sister of David Morrissey's title character here. Although, despite a slow start, the Nail series seems to offer the greater potential, *Finney* has settled into a smoothly competent, if not always likeable, gangster saga. When villains are set against other villains it is difficult to have much feeling either way. As the son who has distanced himself from the family misdeeds, Morrissey continues to be the show's conscience.

The X-Files: Fallen Angels
BBC2, 9.00pm

A show can hardly get rid of its heroes in midstream so that when FBI agents Mulder (David Duchovny) and Scully (Gillian Anderson) are threatened with dismissal and the disbandment of their operation, viewers are entitled to be sceptical. But such is the quality of the show that this little piece of incredulity counts for nothing. When something nasty comes out of the skies and lands in Wisconsin, causing horrible deaths by burning, the authorities try to cover up the evidence. Mulder and Scully, however, are not fooled, hence the attempt to get rid of them. *The X-Files* has been justly praised for its quirky style but much truth *lies behind the fantastic plots.* **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (3011811)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (4130502) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (6062434)

10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (9604250)

10.35 This Morning (73515163) **12.20pm London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7247144)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (2750417)

12.55 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (1100778) **1.25 Home and Away** (Teletext) (20936705)

1.55 Vanessa: Gay and Married (s) (52031927)

2.25 A Country Practice (s) (23948927) **2.50 Gardeners' Diary.** John Ravenscroft delivers more horticultural tips (7068250)

3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (6355569) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (6347540)

3.30 The Riddlers (4064453) **3.40 Wizadora** (s) (3053076) **3.50 Britt Allcroft's Magic Adventures of Mumfie** (s) (4075569) **4.05 Astro Farm.** (Teletext) (s) (3244873) **4.20 Garfield and Friends** (r) (7311182) **4.45 Bad Influence!** presented by Andy Crane and Violet Berlin (s) (5066927)

5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (2873434)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (722182)

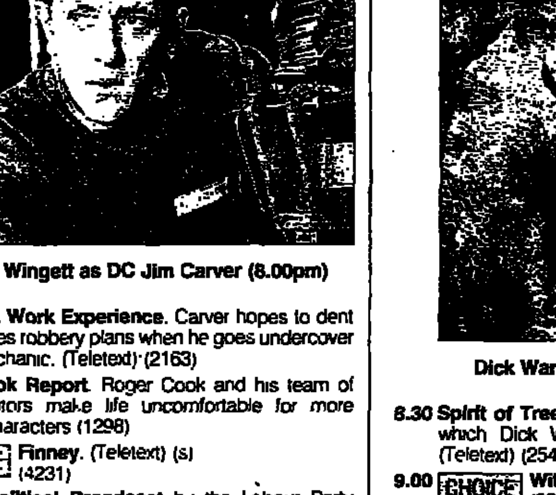
5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' soapbox (157960)

6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (415)

6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (845)

7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (3415)

7.30 The Big Story with Dermot Murnaghan (s) (279)



Mark Wingett as DC Jim Carver (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill: Work Experience. Carver hopes to dent his bosses robbery plans when he goes undercover as a mechanic. (Teletext) (2163)

8.30 The Cook Report. Roger Cook and his team of investigators make life uncomfortable for more shady characters (1298)

9.00 CHOICE **Finney.** (Teletext) (s) (4231)

10.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (802434)

10.05 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (939892)

10.35 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (551786)

10.45 Revelations. Drama following the fortunes of a bishop's family (s) (527873)

11.15 Big City (s) (524786)

11.45 Time Out with . . . Bob Monkhouse (s) (523057)

12.15am The Beat (r) (s) (343903)

1.15 The Little Picture Show (r) (349187)

2.15 The Album Show (r) (s) (363767)

3.15 America's Top Ten (r) (s) (24047106)

3.40 Quiz Night. Teams from Bondy's Bar in Ellesmere Port battle with The Albion in Poole for the last place in the semi-final (26254274)

4.10 Donahue. The American chat show host meets the Sisters of the Notre Dame order in Milwaukee, who have been guinea pigs in a research programme into Alzheimer's disease (8234699)

5.00 Videofashion (r) (84941)

5.30 ITN Morning News (67125). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (4818960)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (58873)

9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (28095)

9.30 Schools. Middle English (9672618) **9.45** The Maths Programme (8514908) **10.05** Scientific Eye (6079724) **10.27** Geographical Eye (8983502) **10.50** Your World (6700231) **11.00** Believe it or Not **11.16** Reviewing the Landscape (3316347) **11.40** The French Programme (s) (3250298)

12.00 House To House Maya Even reports on yesterday's business (90601)

12.30 Sesame Street. The guest is Rick Moranis (71892) **1.30 The Bluffers** (r) (57095)

2.00 FILM: President's Lady (1953) starring Susan Hayward and Charlton Heston. A biopic of Andrew Jackson, the seventh President of the United States. Directed by Henry Levin. (Teletext) (798724) **3.50 Cow On the Frontier** Animation (3040502)

4.00 Members Only. The last in Ray Gosling's series on the clubs and societies in the West Country (Teletext) (s) (908)

4.30 Fifteen To One. (Teletext) (s) (892)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guests are women who set their husbands' awareness tests. (Teletext) (s) (2902521)

5.50 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (170811)

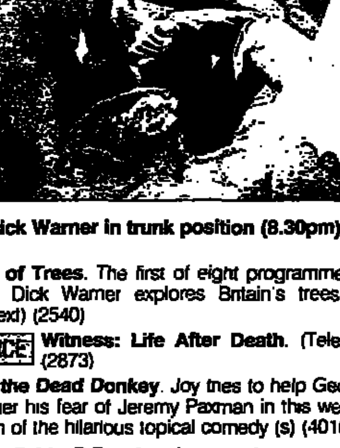
6.00 Home Improvement. American comedy series (r). (Teletext) (s) (647)

6.30 Roseanne (r). (Teletext) (s) (637)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (s) (630569)

7.50 Belfast Lessons (887279)

8.00 Beat That Einstein. Richard Vranch sets the team of young scientists more tasks. (Teletext) (s) (4255)



Dick Warner in trunk position (8.30pm)

8.30 Spirit of Trees. The first of eight programmes in which Dick Warner explores Britain's trees (r). (Teletext) (2540)

9.00 CHOICE **Witness: Life After Death.** (Teletext) (2873)

10.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. Joy tries to help George conquer his fear of Jeremy Paxman in this week's edition of the hilarious topical comedy (s) (40160)

10.30 Bakersfield P.D. American police comedy. (Teletext) (s) (353521)

11.05 Female Parts. The third of a six-part series about women focuses on four successful females who feel that, despite all their achievements, they still spend their lives pleasing men (r). (Teletext) (s) (517057)

12.10am Dispatches (r). (Teletext) (2749877)

12.55 Key West Off-beat American comedy starring Fisher Stevens (s) (3202767)

1.55 Play Mas. The importance of masks in a Trinidadian carnival (r) (8451274)

2.10 Steel Drums The history of steel drums as musical instruments (r) (s) (6761729)

2.30 FILM: The Vicar of Bray (1937, b/w) starring Stanley Holloway. A comedy drama about an Irish vicar whose friendship with the future Charles II saves the life on an imprisoned Cromwell supporter. *Directed by Henry Edwards (3453813). Ends at* **3.40**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 1.55 The Young Doctors (55489163) **2.50-3.20** Take the High Road (7068250) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2873434) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News (873927) **10.45** Marquee (836873) **11.10** Phoenix (516328) **12.15am** Married with Children (5811545) **12.40** Tropical Heat (8803535) **1.35** Superstars of Wrestling (7799941) **2.15** America's Top Ten (85187) **2.45** The Wind of Change (8984458) **3.50** Jobfinder (1503212) **4.35-5.30** Cue the Music (5098944)

CENTRAL
As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (55489163) **2.50-3.20** Take the High Road (7068250) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2873434) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (428960) **11.15** The Brit Awards 1994 (915569) **12.45am** Music Box Special (2488354) **1.10-1.15** Night Shift: Movie on Location (9867854) **3.10-3.40** America's Top Ten (13482380) **4.10** Jobfinder (1666600) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (2168729)

GRANADA
As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (1100778) **1.25** Home and Away (87101182) **1.50** Vanessa (52009328) **2.20** Highdays and Otherdays (23930908) **2.50-3.20** Emmerdale (7068250) **5.10-5.40** Countdown to Christmas (2873434) **6.25** Granada Tonight (873927) **7.00-7.30** Emmerdale (3415) **10.45** Revelations (527873) **11.15** The Good Sex Guide (524786) **11.45** Prisoner Cell Block H (954434) **12.40am** Tropical Heat (8803535) **1.35** Superstars of Wrestling (7799941) **2.15** America's Top Ten (85187) **2.45** The Wind of Change (8984458) **3.50** Jobfinder (1503212) **4.35-5.30** Cue the Music (5098944)

HTV WEST
As London except: 2.25 Gardening Time (23939279) **2.55-3.20** Shortland Street (6304366) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (2873434) **5.55** Home and Away (185502) **6.25-7.30** HTV News (873927) **10.45** The Good Sex Guide (527873) **11.15** Midweek (524786) **11.45** The West This Week (523057) **12.15am** Married with Children (5811545) **12.40** Tropical Heat (8803535) **1.35** Superstars of Wrestling (7799941) **2.15** America's Top Ten (85187) **2.45** The Wind of Change (8984458) **3.50** Jobfinder (1503212) **4.35-5.30** Cue the Music (5098944)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: 6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (873927) **7.30-8.00** Wales This Week (279) **10.35-10.45** HTV News (551786) **11.15** Fifth Column (524786) **11.45-12.15pm** The Big Story (523057)

MERIDIAN
As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Meridian News and Weather (6062434) **12.20pm-12.30** Meridian News and Weather (7247144) **1.55** A Country Practice (55489163) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (7068250) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2873434) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (415) **6.30-7.00** Time Off (845) **10.35** Meridian News and Weather (551786) **10.45** Passion Flower (93176540) **12.35am-1.15** Ready When You Are (1403545) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (84941)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 2.25-3.25 The Sullivans (23939279) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2873434) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (35873) **10.45** Westcountry Focus: The West at Work (527873) **11.15** Prisoner Cell Block H (970347) **12.10am** Coach (1943019) **12.40** Tropical Heat (8803595) **1.35** Superstars of Wrestling (7799941) **2.15** America's Top Ten (85187) **2.45** The Wind of Change (8984458) **3.50** Jobfinder (1503212) **4.35-5.30** Cue the Music (5098944)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (55489163) **2.50-3.20** The Young Doctors (7068250) **3.25-3.30** Yorkshire: Calendar News / Belmdale: Network North (8347540) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2873434) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (880182) **6.30-7.00** Runway (845) **10.35** Calendar News and Weather (551786) **10.45** Edit V (143095) **11.45** Prisoner Cell Block H (954434) **12.40am** The Hunter (270125) **2.25** America's Top Ten (6939038) **2.55** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (5095477) **3.25** Memories of 1970-1991 (5356869) **4.20-5.30** Jobfinder (1061212)

S4C
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (58873) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (28095) **9.30** Ysgolion (891453) **12.00pm** House To House (90601) **12.30** Slot Meithrin (58724) **1.00** Hullaballoo (51960) **1.30** Maiden Voyages, USA (57095) **2.00** Short Stories: Pedigree Chums (4498) **2.30** Members Only: Sisters in Arms (328) **3.00** Ride On (9078) **3.30** Ricki Lake: My Husband Only Wants a Son (8204415) **4.20** Terrytoons (3598182) **4.30** The Cosby Show (892) **5.00** 5 Pump (4521) **5.30** Fifteen To One (144) **6.00** Newyddion (536811) **6.20** Heno (858250) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (1057) **7.30** Noson Lawen (29453) **8.30** Newyddion (2540) **9.00** The Obituary Show - Barbara Windsor (2908) **9.30** Paris: L' Insenté (38860) **10.00** Drop The Dead Donkey (40160) **10.30** Wild West (83902279) **12.05am** Tales From a Darkened Room: The Diary of Arthur Crewe Inman (1935080)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (39095) **8.00** Power Rangers (8848521) **8.45** Cartoons (5217106) **9.30** Card Sharks (8418095) **10.00** Concentration (8418095) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (8269989) **10.30** Candid Camera (69989) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (19714) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (73569) **12.30pm** E Street (83434) **1.00** Falcon Crest (86989) **2.00** Harem (89279) **3.00** The Trials of Rosie O'Neil (8425095) **3.50** The DJ Kat Show (1168366) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (1076) **6.00** Gamesworld (7989) **6.30** Spellbound (1569) **7.00** E Street (2705) **7.30** M*A*S*H (1973) **8.00** Sightings (16786) **9.00** LA Law (29250) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (39637) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (864347) **11.45** WIOU (772521) **12.45am** Barney Miller (46212) **1.15-1.45** Night Court (43125)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (5079453) **9.30** Sky News Extra (25298) **10.30** ABC Nightline (40231) **1.30pm** CBS News This Morning (70250) **2.30** Parliament Live (81786) **5.00** Live at Five (9618) **6.00** Richard Littlejohn (46927) **9.30** Worldwide Report (49347) **11.30** CBS News (52960) **12.30am** ABC News (9667922) **1.10** Richard Littlejohn (7371106) **2.30** Parliament Replay (22019) **4.30** CBS News (75699) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (47057)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (7127453) **10.00 The Woman Who Loved Elvis** (1993) (22748502) **11.40 Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines** (1965) (81536347) **2.00pm Across the Great Divide** (1977) (20989) **4.00 A Waltons' Thanksgiving Reunion** (1994) (56366927) **5.55 The Woman Who Loved Elvis** (1993). As 10am (56360637) **7.30 E! News Week in Review** (5521) **8.00 The Portrait** (1992) (45298) **10.00 Sworn to Vengeance** (1993) (995347) **11.35 Little Devils: The Birth** (1993) (112347) **1.15am Secret Games** (1991) (498835) **2.50 Scum** (1980) (446038) **4.25-6.00 A Waltons' Thanksgiving Reunion** (1994): As 4pm (201583)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.00pm Stalag 17 (1953) (95231) **8.00 Rebel Without a Cause** (1955) (22796) **10.00-12.00 Melvin and Howard** (1980) (99569)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Rhapsody in August (1991) (22705) **8.00 Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.** Animated classic tale (38231) **9.00 Goldilocks and the Three Bears** Cartoon (28705) **10.00 The Desk Set** (1957) (85892) **12.00 The Five Pennies** (1959) (84724) **2.00pm Tea for Two** (1950) (11231) **4.00 Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde:** As 8am (54809) **5.00 Goldilocks and the Three Bears:** As 9am (4786) **6.00 Rich in Love** (1993) (31095) **8.00 Sommersby** (1993) (36540) **10.00 Stone Cold** (1991) (993989) **11.35 Erotic Showcase** (1992) (221434) **1.30am Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me** (1992) (25210800) **3.50 Save the Tiger** (1973) (54851090)

● **For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Soccer News (8483057) **7.15** WWF Challenge (348453) **8.15** Soccer News (9250569) **8.30** Extreme (11298) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (98453) **10.00** NBA Basketball (85989) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (59076) **12.30pm** Ringside Boxing (33386) **2.30** The Rugby Club (54989) **3.30** ATP Tennis Magazine (5163) **4.00** Watersports (40279) **5.00** WWF Action Zone (5434) **6.00** Soccer News (236076) **6.15** Sports Classics (224231) **6.30** Rugby (5927) **7.00** WWF Survivor Series (209618) **10.00** Soccer News (720231) **10.15** International Cricket — First Test Preview (8695434) **11.30-7.00am** Cricket: Australia v England in the First Test. Live (9315144)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Step Aerobics (57182) **8.00** Equestrianism (93705) **9.00** Tennis (71811) **10.00** Drag Racing (15618) **10.30** Rally (53892) **11.00** Car Racing (33502) **12.00** Motors Magazine (73144) **1.00pm** Weightlifting (29811) **3.00** Eurofun (9250) **3.30** Triathlon (50908) **4.30** Live Weightlifting (62724) **6.30** News (2845) **7.00** Figure Skating (601892) **9.30** Football (63453) **11.00** Football (54095) **12.00** News (20632)

SKY SOAP
8.00am Loving (8949163) **8.30** Peyton Place (8848434) **9.00** As the World Turns (9156569) **10.00** Guiding Light (9370637) **11.00-12.00** Another World (9350873)

SKY TRAVEL
12.00 Travel Destinations — Budapest (8942250) **12.30pm** Kids Down Under (3191786) **1.00** Cruising the Globe (9361989) **1.30** Cooking in America (3190057) **2.00** American Adventurer (2002415) **2.30** Video Trips (8260873) **3.30** Mansion (5454328) **4.00** *Cruising the Globe* (5466163) **4.30** Kids Down Under (5462347) **5.00** Video Trips (2026095) **5.30** Cooking in France (5486927) **6.00** Getaway — Australia



Richard Gere as Jack Sommersby (The Movie Channel, 8.00pm)

(5476540) **6.30** American Adventurer (5467892) **7.00** Travel Destinations — Budapest (9669417) **8.00** Guide (7689237) **9.00** Getaway — Australia (7971569) **9.30** Round Trip — Venice (3104250) **10.00** Alaska Video Postcards (8950279) **10.30** Cooking in France (8969927) **11.00** Getaway (7943786) **11.30-12.00** Mansion (5928347)

TLC
9.00am Successful Sugarcraft (3337958) **9.30** Highdays and Otherdays (7322618) **10.00** Parents Talking (8183360) **10.30** Only Human (1338705) **11.30** Decisions, Decisions (3419618) **12.00** The Sick Kids (7797714) **12.30pm** Cash in Hand (7326434) **1.00** Highdays and Otherdays (9565569) **1.30** Successful Sugarcraft (7325705) **2.00** Draw with Don (24050366) **2.15** Extra Dimensions (5579163) **3.00** Successful Home Video (6425908) **3.30-4.00** Furniture to Go (3190863)

UK GOLD
7.00am The Sullivans (9535328) **7.30** Neighbours (9547163) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (8147255) **8.30** EastEnders (9597796) **9.00** The Bill (5892188) **9.30** Colditz (9700618) **10.30** The Lotus Eaters (48476873) **11.35** The Sullivans (19233163) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (5897732) **12.30pm** Neighbours (7328892) **1.00** EastEnders (9567927) **1.30** The Bill (7327163) **2.00** Robin's Nest (8408231) **2.30** I Didn't Know You Cared (6340386) **3.00** Knots Landing (3415892) **4.00** Dynasty (3434927) **5.00** Every Second Counts (2913453) **5.35** Top of the Pops: The 1970s (3650637) **5.55** Terry and June (2294618) **6.30** EastEnders (1295237) **7.00** The Two Ronnies (2693569) **8.00** I Didn't Know You Cared (8428095) **8.30** Robin's Nest (8407502) **9.00** Minder (2682453) **10.00** The Bill (4547291) **10.30** Top of the Pops (8607250) **11.15** Rory Bremner (5578231) **11.55** Dr Who (4233960) **12.25am** The Goodies (3065125) **12.55** Squadron (50267941) **2.00** Shopping

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL
6.00am Ratkan III (8317417) **6.15** Bobobobs (3773347) **6.45** Casper (374618) **7.15** Head to Head (4560368) **7.25** Eek the Cat (4973144) **7.55** Saved by the Bell (7830160) **8.25** Super Mario Brothers (7514057) **8.40** *Tifou (8336927)* **8.50** *Coconut (8325811)* **9.00** Its Droibee Time (97873) **10.00** Paddington (35057) **11.00** Kitty Cats (91927) **11.30** Barney and Friends (59328) **12.00** Ratkan III (91076) **12.30pm** Head to Head (39535540) **12.40** Eek the Cat (1797705) **1.10** Saved by the Bell (70782095) **1.40** Super Mario Brothers (51286892) **1.50** Tifou (51282076) **2.00** Babar (4347) **2.30** Blinky Bill (2618) **3.00** Tic Tac Toons (2105095) **3.15** Bobby's World (868960) **3.45** The Bots Master (987231) **4.15** Head to Head (2756960) **4.30-5.00** Hallway Across the *Galaxy (5183)*

NICKELODEON
7.00am Nickalive! (8414327) **7.15** Grimmy (722231) **7.45** Rugrats (721502) **8.15** Rocko (9241811) **8.30** Ghostbusters (2210927) **8.45** Nickalive! (2208182) **9.00** Nick Jr (832095) **12.00** Muppet Show (57618) **12.30pm** Rugrats (80811) **1.00** Doug (40392) **1.30** Chipmunks (99182) **2.00** Denver (8219) **2.30** Smoggies (1960) **3.00** Nick Faves! (2724) **3.30** Killer Tomatoes (3705) **4.00** Turtles Gold (5540) **4.30** Rugrats (1724) **5.00** Clarissa (4569) **5.30** Doug (2076) **6.00** Rocko (9989) **6.30** Dracula (3569)

DISCOVERY
4.00pm In Celebration of Trees (3432569) **5.00** *Guide to the Orient (8420453)* **5.30** The New Explorers (2206453) **6.05** Beyond 2000 (6363960) **7.00** Encyclopedia Galactica (8417989) **7.30** Arthur C. Clarke (1190683) **8.00** Deadly Australians (8426637) **8.30** Skybound (8405144) **9.00** Secret Weapons (34421453) **9.30** Spirit of Survival (7346298) **10.00** Embrace of the Samurai (2683182) **11.00** The Beer Hunter (3433298) **11.30-12.00** Life in the Wild (4958124)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM: Daybreak (1946) (2628811) **1.30pm** The Donny and Marie Show (7312231) **2.00** thirtysomething (5308665) **3.00** My Three Sons (8412434) **3.30** The Beverly Hillbillies (9590809) **4.00** FILM: Devil Girl from Mars (1954) (2618434) **5.30** Drama Classics (4445750) **6.00** The Green Hornet (7695273) **6.30** I Spy (3034569) **7.30** Car 54, Where Are You? (3295417) **8.00** thirtysomething (2664057) **9.00** The Twilight Zone (3425279) **9.30** FILM: Conduct Unbecoming (1975) (4187569) **11.30-12.00** Hogan's Heroes (6053958)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour (1897163) **7.00** Living Magazine (5847188) **8.00** The Treatment (3162618) **8.30** Women Mean Business (3161989) **9.00** Delia Smith's Christmas (1616786) **9.35** Definition (3691569) **10.00** Trivia Trap (2466434) **10.30** Susan Powter (3174453) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (1851637) **12.00** Through the Looking Glass (1300182) **12.35pm** Kilroy (1594279) **1.30** Family Affairs (6659502) **2.00** Agony Hour (2467163) **3.00** Living Magazine (3116908) **3.45** Gladrags and Glamour (24627786) **4.00** Infatuation UK (2370618) **4.30** Definition (49921989) **4.55** Masterchef (6619786) **5.30** Kate and Allie (2363182) **6.00** Maternal World (2380095) **6.30** Mr and Mrs (2371347) **7.00** Living Magazine (1356892) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (1365540) **9.00** FILM: Victim of Beauty (1991) (96220569) **10.50** Short Shorts (8664811) **11.00** Susan Powter (6370347) **11.30** Infatuation (2462618)

FAMILY CHANNEL
5.00pm Tintin (8927) **5.30** Boogies Diner (6434) **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty (3347) **6.30** Through the Keyhole (7927) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (8163) **7.30** Evening Shade (6811) **8.00** Snowy River (22714) **9.00** Moonlighting (29298) **10.00** Catchphrase (92705) **10.30** GP (41863) **11.00** Lou Grant (36786) **12.00** Rhoda (77564) **12.30pm** Big Brother Jake (31274) **1.00** Tintin (70816) **1.30** Trivial Pursuit (20309) **2.00** Moonlighting (95800) **3.00** Lou Grant (91187) **4.00** Rhoda (25458) **4.30-5.00** Evening Shade (91309)

MTV
5.00pm Awake on the Wildside (16545) **6.30** The Grind (74665) **7.00** European Music Awards Spotlight (52724) **7.30** Awake on the Wildside (31231) **8.00** VJ Ingo (736347) **11.00** Soul (57279) **12.00** Greatest Hits (22434) **1.00pm** The Afternoon Mix (24160) **3.00** Sports (8540) **3.30** The Report (8486317) **3.45** Cinematic (9146732) **4.00** News at Night (2775095) **4.15** 3 from 1 (2766618) **4.30** Dial (7540) **5.00** Music Non-Stop (16057) **6.30** European Music Awards Pre-Games Show (6057) **7.00** 1994 European Music Awards, live from Berlin (18618) **8.30** European Music Awards Pre-Games Show (97279) **10.00** Awards (996347) **12.30am** The End? (33632) **1.00** Soul (19309) **2.00** The Grind (36564) **2.30** Night Videos (969583)

VH-1
7.00am Crawling from the Wreckage (9353960) **9.00** Café (1139095) **12.00** The Bridge (6851811) **1.30pm** *Ten of the Best* (3464892) **2.30** Heart and Soul (8262231) **3.30** Into the Music (8698163) **6.00** Prime Cuts (3101163) **7.00** For You (1164647) **8.00** Rock (5869255) **9.00** Ten of the Best (1469499) **10.00** The Bridge (9129415) **11.30** Today's Top Five (5920705) **12.00** The Nightly (2227748) **2.00am** Prime Cuts (1577570) **3.00** Rock (2692335) **4.00** Ten of the Best (1331816) **5.00** Dawn Patrol

TV ASIA
6.00am Persian Dawn (86279) **7.00** Asian Morning (10434) **8.30** Bunyaad (84786) **9.00** Pakistani FILM (454231) **12.00** Ghar (17502) **1.00pm** New Serial (26250) **2.00** Hindi FILM (392927) **5.00** TVA and You (5453) **5.30-6.00** Bunyaad (3960) **7.00** Forts of India (4705) **7.30** Serial (2453) **8.00** News (3453) **8.30** Pakistan Business (2960) **9.00** Hindi FILM: Charnon ki Saugandh (105328) **12.00** Asian Morning (707729) **1.35am** Sight and Sound

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT
Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
Theme: Spotlight on Deborah Kerr
7.00pm Young Bess (1953) (59407873) **9.05 Edward, My Son** (1949) (91184328) **11.10 Eye of the Devil** (1967) (31657637) **12.50am Please Believe Me** (1950) (51289380) **2.25-5.00 Vacation from Marriage** (1945) (77561816)

● **For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

CNN/CMT/QVC
CNN provides 24-hour news, CMT has country music from midnight to 4pm and QVC is the home shopping channel

Scot ends 18-year wait for home victory as team-mate's world title hopes slide

Steady McRae drives away Britain's jinx

By Oliver Holt

POLICE outriders cleared the way and a Scottish piper led the blue-and-yellow Subaru Impreza towards the ceremonial ramp at the edge of the Roodee Racecourse in Chester. The announcer looked at the mud-spattered car and assumed the tones of an auctioneer. "Three hundred and twenty-three miles on the clock and one careful owner," he said.

The din of the Klaxons and the cheers of the crowd in the grandstands increased. Colin McRae got out of his car, climbed onto the roof and sprayed champagne at the crowd as his father, Jimmy, and brother, Alister, rally drivers past and present, looked on. Beside them stood Roger Clark, a portly figure now and the previous British winner of the RAC Rally 18 years ago.

McRae shares the same birthday as Clark and drove this year with the same number on the side of his car that Clark had when he won the event for the second time in 1976. Yesterday, amid controversy about the fate of his team-mate in the Network Q RAC Rally, he emulated Clark's achievement, too, by sweeping to victory in his home event and ending the jinx that has affected British drivers in it. "Colin has worked very hard for this," Clark said. "Now he has joined an exclusive club."

Three times before McRae has led this rally only to be defeated by mechanical failure, his own impetuosity or the vagaries of the terrain. This year, once the threat of team orders disappeared in a ditch with the world championship hopes of his team-mate, Carlos Sainz, nothing could stop him.

McRae, 26, who was the British rally champion in 1991 and 1992, assumed the lead of this event on the third stage on Sunday and never surrendered it. There was no sign of the wildness that characterised his driving in early years, no narrow escapes. By the time he finished the final stage, Clocaenog East, in the forests of mid-Wales, he was three minutes and 33 seconds ahead of his nearest challenger, the winner last year, Juha Kankkunen.

Luck had worked against the Scot in the past, but this year it rode with him. Yesterday morning, there was a real possibility he would have to sacrifice a win so that Sainz could take the lead and secure the world championship ahead of Didier Auriol, who was inching up the field after a calamitous start.

But Sainz was disconcerted on the first stage of the day when he was confronted by two logs on the track in front of him, apparently placed there by spectators after McRae had hurtled by. He swerved past them but on the next stage, Dyfi Main, he slid into a ditch and lost 34 minutes in time. "He was very, very upset by what the spectators did," David Richards, the Subaru team director said. "He was very sensitive about the support for Colin.

"I saw Carlos off in the ditch with a lot of people trying to help him," Kankkunen, Auriol's Toyota team-mate, said. "But with the current situation, I'm not sure how hard they were trying." Sainz retired before the next stage, leaving Auriol to claim his and France's first world rally championship by finishing sixth. "It was the longest rally of my life," Auriol said.

"I had mixed emotions when I heard that Carlos had gone off," he said. "It meant that there would be no team orders and I could go on and win the rally but I felt sorry for him because his world title hopes had gone. I had a similar situation earlier this year in the Monte Carlo Rally when they put snow and ice on the road and I went off.

"It is a huge weight off my shoulders to win this rally at last. Everyone has been expecting this victory for the past three years and there was beginning to be some doubt that I would ever do it. But I'm more mature now and I hope when I get to this stage next year, I will be going for the world championship."

It was a day of mixed emotions for Subaru, too, a rally won and a championship lost. "It is very upsetting what happened to Carlos," Richards said. "From that point of view it is a sad end to a long, hard year for us. But Colin drove the most impeccable rally of his life. He has had a lot of false dawns but now he has arrived."

Result stands, page 44

MARC ASPLAND



McRae, right, and his co-driver, Derek Ringer, celebrate their victory in the RAC Rally at Chester yesterday

FOURTH-DAY DETAILS

Final placings

1, C McRae and D Ringer (GB), Subaru Impreza, 5hr 17min 25sec; 2, J Kankkunen (Fin) and N Grist (GB), Toyota Celica, 5:20.58; 3, B Thiry and S Prevot (Bel), Ford Escort, 5:27.37; 4, S Blomqvist and B Melander (Swe), Ford Escort, 5:30.13; 5, A Vatanen (Fin) and F Pons (It), Ford Escort, 5:34.25; 6, D Auriol and B Occelli (Fr), Toyota Celica, 5:47.57; 7, G Evans and H Davis (GB), Ford Escort, 5:52.24; 8, J Habig and D Judd (SA), Ford Escort, 5:53.16; 9, T Makinen and S Harjanne (Fin), Nissan Sunny, 5:53.25; 10, G De Mevius and W Lux (Bel), Vauxhall Astra, 5:53.54.

Other British placings: 11, D Llewellin and I Grindrod, Vauxhall Astra, 5:54.31; 12, J Milner and S Turvey, Ford Escort, 5:57.37; 14, M Rowe and C Wood, Peugeot, 306 6:04.51; 17, J Easson and A Cook, Ford Escort, 6:06.06; 20, S Petch and P Croft, Ford Escort 6:10.33.

Formula two: 1, Evans; 2, Makinen; 3, De Mevius; 4, Llewellin; 5, Rowe.

Group N: 1, Milner; 2, M Kamioka (Japan) and I Stewart (Aus), Subaru Imprezam, 6:00.38; 3, J Puras and A Romani (Sp), Ford Escort, 6:05.08; 4, I Holderied (Ger) and T Thomer (Swe), Mitsubishi Lancer, 6:05.23; 5, Easson.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Drivers: 1, Auriol 116pts, 2, C Sainz (Sp), Subaru Impreza, 99; 3, Kankkunen 93; 4, McRae 49; 5, Thiry 44; 6, M Biasion (It), Ford Escort, 42; 7, A Schwarz (Ger), Mitsubishi Lancer, 31; 8, F Delecour (Fr), Ford Escort, 30; 9, Vatanen 28; 10, Makinen 22. Manufacturers: 1, Toyota 151; 2, Subaru 140; 3, Ford 116.

Minister taken to task over athletics facilities

By Our Sports Staff

IAIN Sproat, the Minister for Sport, last night heard Crystal Palace branded a disgrace for top-class athletics. He was confronted with the criticism by Eric Shirley, the vice-chairman of the British Athletic Federation (BAF), which played host to the World Cup at the south London stadium in September.

During the three-day event, the BAF had to take criticism from the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, Primo Nebiolo, who said: "London is one of the great cities in the world and deserves a great stadium."

Shirley told Sproat last night at the Central Council of Physical Recreation's conference at Market Bosworth, Warwickshire: "Spain, Italy, Germany, France and most European countries all have excellent venues.

"I was ashamed and embarrassed by the facilities we provided at Crystal Palace. Does the minister share this shame and embarrassment?"

Sproat admitted the facilities were "not adequate" and hoped money from the National Lottery could be used to address the problem.

Rodney Walker, the new chairman of the Sports Council, which will distribute lottery money to sport, promised a "state-of-the-art" stadium for London in the next few years.

Addressing representatives of governing bodies, the minister said his prime target was to restore team sport to the heart of school life — helped by a halt to the sale of playing fields. "The best way for future national success is to teach these games and for sports organisations to forge closer links with their local schools," he said.

☐ Liu Dong, of China, the 1,500 metre world champion, was reported yesterday to be planning to auction her gold medal, to raise funds to pay for her training.

"Although the gold medal symbolises what an athlete can achieve in her career, intensive training for future events is all the more important," Liu told the Xinhua news agency. Liu left the record-breaking Chinese team coached by the innovative but hot-tempered Ma Junrea in 1993, apparently at odds with his strict regime.

Exeter City gain stay of execution

EXETER City, the struggling Endsleigh Insurance League third division club, won a stay of possible execution last night in its battle to escape closure. The club, which is £1.25 million in debt and went into voluntary liquidation earlier this month, presented a survival plan to the Football League on Monday and a decision on the club's position has been deferred for a further 21 days.

The three-week delay gives the club the chance to overcome Colchester United in the second round of the FA Cup on Saturday week and, perhaps, land a lucrative tie in the third round against one of the big clubs in the FA Carling Premiership.

"This additional period was sanctioned by the League's board of directors following a request from the administrator in charge at the club and is intended to give Exeter an opportunity to finalise financial guarantees to enable the club to fulfil its obligations to the League and complete the season," a Football League spokesman said yesterday.

A total of 121 teams from Africa, Asia and Central and South America yesterday entered the draw for the qualifying rounds of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. European teams have already started their qualifiers and so were not included in the draw. As the host nation, the United States automatically qualifies for a place in the Olympics.

The game's world governing body, Fifa, said three teams from Asia, three from Africa, five from Europe, three from North and Central America and Australasia and two from South America would go forward to the Olympic tournament, which takes place between July 20 and August 3 at five sites in the United States.

Three players above the age of 23 will be included in the Olympic squads, which, it is hoped, will raise the quality of play. Until now, the age limit has kept out leading players and meant that the Olympic tournament has been a sideshow to the World Cup. Spain, the host nation, won the Olympic tournament in Barcelona in 1992.

The financial director of the former European champions, Marseilles, Alain Laroche, was placed under judicial control yesterday in an inquiry over the French club's accounts. Laroche had already been placed under investigation in the same case, which is inquiring into allegations of irregularities in the payment of players' transfer fees.

England's amateurs given expert advice

JOHN Whetton, the former Olympic athlete, and Tommy Horton, the former Ryder Cup player, are among the experts offering advice to leading amateur golfers at the English Golf Union's (EGU) national coaching weekend at Collingtree Park this weekend.

Whetton will speak about fitness and nutrition and Horton will focus on the short game. Harold Swash will talk about putting and Keith Williams, the EGU's new senior coach, will analyse swings using video recordings.

The 39 players in attendance will spend 75 minutes with each expert. There will also be a lecture on the rules of golf and, on Sunday, an 18-hole medal competition.

Williams's appointment coincides with a change of policy in the EGU's approach to coaching. These weekend sessions aim to address other areas of the game as well as technique. Regional coaching sessions and a spring training week for potential internationals are also planned.

Lee James, Mark Foster and five other members of the victorious England team in the home international tournament will all be attending.

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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 327

ACROSS
1 Front of body; reach the summit (of) (6)
5 Mutilate (4)
9 Swagger (7)
10 Trivial objection (6)
11 Kept back (8)
12 Suave (6)
15 Obliterate (6)
18 Repulsive (8)
20 Powerless (6)
22 Hurtful; excavation through hill (7)
23 (Half a) house (4)
24 Deer head growth (6)

DOWN
2 Animal; chanter; poor performer (6)
3 Imprecation; hated thing (8)
4 Business (5)
6 Eagerly impatient (4)
7 Falcon; magician (6)
8 Melted cheese dish (6)
13 Saint, monastic founder (8)
14 Roman Stoic, Nero's tutor (6)
16 Organism group inc. yeast, mushroom (6)
17 Thick tropical forest (6)
19 Excessive; an extremist (5)
21 Economic growth period; deep sound (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 326

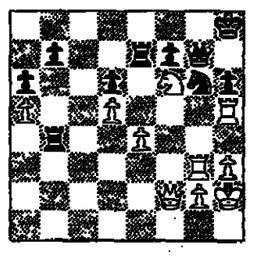
ACROSS: 1 Deputy 4 Top up 8 Serum 9 Refusal 10 Unguent 11 Next 12 Hew 14 Binge 15 Album 18 Dew 20 Wide 22 Ringlet 24 Obvious 25 Caves 26 Linen 27 Starve

DOWN: 1 Disturb 2 Paragon 3 Tempered 4 Tuff 5 Piste 6 Pilot 7 Broth 13 Wainscot 16 Bolivar 17 Matisse 19 Wrest 20 Whorl 21 Divan 23 Noun

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Huss - Pandavos, Greece 1984. If White could break through to the back rank with one of his heavy pieces, the consequences would be disastrous for Black. How did White bring this about with a fine combination?



Solution, page 45
Raymond Keene, page 8

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PAVISAND
a. A pavement of sand
b. A leather shield
c. To flaunt one's clothes

PROSPHORA
a. The vanguard
b. An introduction
c. Communion bread

RIKKA
a. Flower arranging
b. A double flowering bamboo
c. The mongoose

PIFFER
a. A bubble-bubble
b. A Punjab policeman
c. A sneerer or mocker

Answers on page 45